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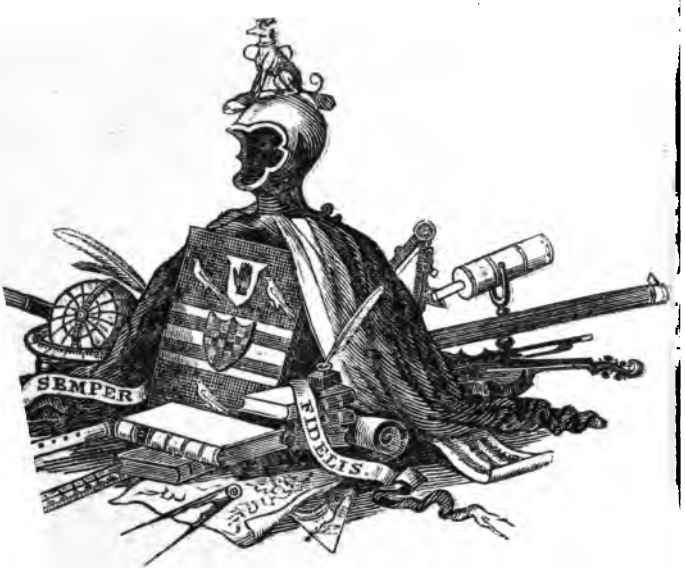

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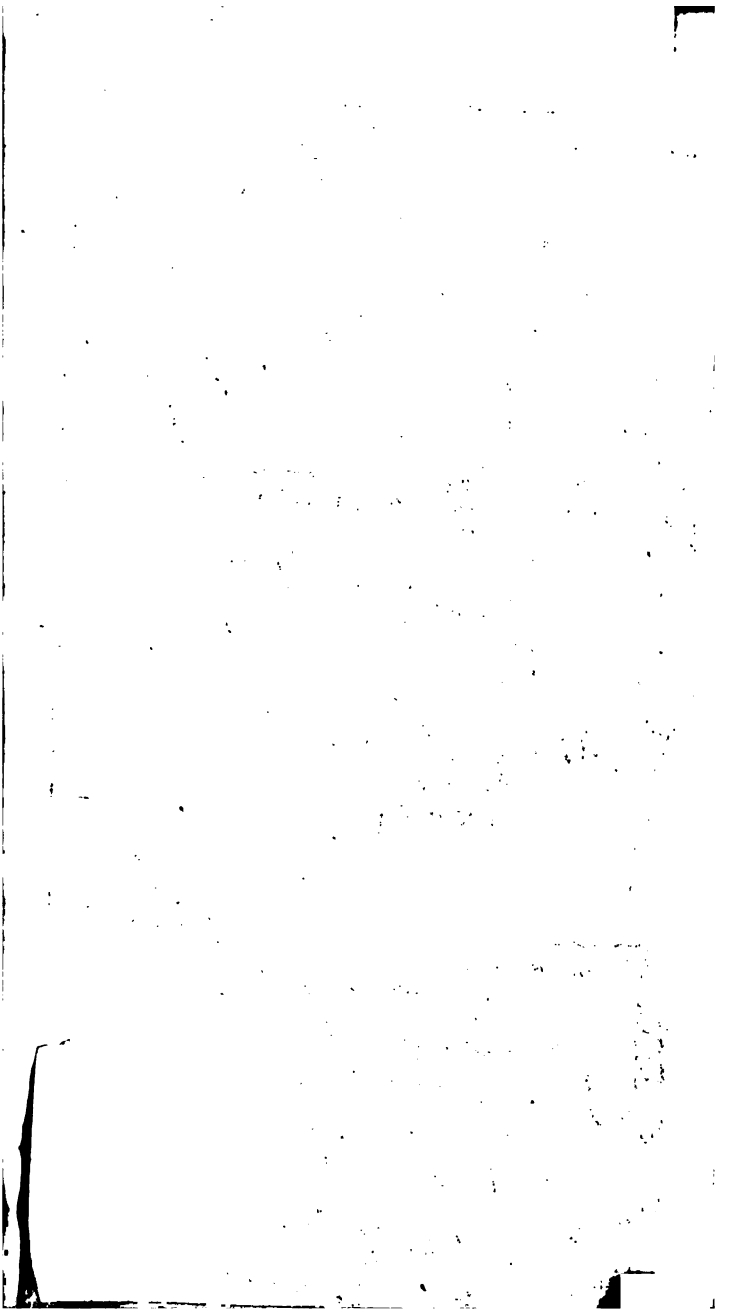

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A TOUR

THROUGH

ASIA MINOR

AND THE

GREEK ISLANDS.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE

INHABITANTS, NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,

AND

CURIOSITIES.

FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT OF

YOUTH.

BY C. WILKINSON.

LONDON:

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PREFACE.

VERY few persons undertake a Tour through Asia Minor and the Greek Islands. The dangers attending it are only encountered by the botanist and antiquarian, whose ardour for science and information reconciles them to every situation, however difficult. The Editor, therefore, availing himself of the labours of others, has endeavoured to select from their travels, and present to his young readers, under a familiar form, a Tour through a part of the globe that has given birth to many an illustrious personage, and been the seat of every art and science that could embellish human society.

To

To those friends, who have so kindly favoured the undertaking, he begs to offer his grateful acknowledgments; hoping that their approbation may sanction his labours.

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A TOUR

THROUGH ASIA MINOR

AND THE

GREEK ISLANDS.

CHAP. I.

COLONEL WINTERTON, a gentleman of family and fortune, had an only sister, who was married to Dr. Sandford, by whom she had three sons and two daughters. William and Henry had been educated at a public school, where they were the favourites of the master, on account of their amiable disposition and attention to their studies. Like most young men of family, the colonel, in his youth, had made the tour of Europe, and was resident some months at Constantinople with a relation of Dr. Sandford's. He had long entertained a wish of visiting the Greek islands, and some parts of Asia Minor; and being very much attached to his nephews, proposed to the doctor to take William and Henry with him; not only as companions, but for their general improvement. "A tour for a few months abroad," said the colonel, "will be of great advantage to them.

They will see mankind more at large, and in numberless situations and points of view. By comparing various laws, customs, and usages, their minds will be more expanded. They will perceive how odious those travellers make themselves, who laugh at the religion, ridicule the customs, and insult the police of the countries through which they pass. Nor will they return, I hope, like our two countrymen mentioned by Sterne, without one generous connection, or pleasureable anecdote to relate."

The doctor and his lady were too much delighted with the colonel's proposition, to start any difficulties respecting the danger or inconvenience of travelling through the Turkish Empire. After making all necessary arrangements, and affectionately embracing their parents, William and Henry proceeded with their uncle to Falmouth, where they agreed with the captain of a merchant ship for their passage to Constantinople. After waiting two days for a fair wind, they embarked and sailed down the harbour, which is so large that one hundred sail may safely ride at anchor at a time. "Pray uncle," said Henry, "what castle is that?" "It is Pendennis," replied the colonel, "and was built by Henry the Eighth for the security of the coast." At the mouth of the channel the swell of the sea was very great, and the ship was so agitated by pitching and rolling, that our young friends could scarcely keep the deck.

On

On the fifth day they made the rock of Lisbon. They had then a strong gale, and sailed at the rate of nine knots an hour. It blew very hard in the night, and the next evening they could discern Cape St. Vincent. "No doubt, you recollect, my dear boys," said the colonel, "that in the year 1797, our gallant admiral, Lord St. Vincent, defeated the Spanish fleet off this Cape. The Spanish admiral was killed, and three of their ships taken, although they were far superior to us in force." As they now approached the Mediterranean, some of the sailors prepared a strong new rope, for ducking such of the crew as were novices in this sea. They were to be let down from the yard-arm, with their hands and feet tied to two bars of wood, placed at convenient distances; but when every thing was ready, they all preferred the alternative, which is a small forfeit to be deducted from their pay. The passage through the Straits of Gibraltar was delightful, beyond imagination, to our travellers. The coast on each side is irregular, adorned with lofty, grotesque mountains, of various shapes, and their majestic tops worn white with rain. They had Spanish and Moorish towns in view, with the rock and fortress of Gibraltar. Sea birds were flying, and numerous small craft moving to and fro, on every quarter. The great assemblage of the bulky monsters of the deep was, in particular, astonishing; some leaping up, some approaching the ship, all floating together abreast, and half out

of the water. William and Henry counted, in one company, fourteen, of the species called by the sailors *the bottle nose*, each about twelve feet long. They are almost shapeless, looking black and oily, with a large thick fin on the back, no eyes or mouth discernable, the head rounded at the extremity, and so joined with the body as to render it difficult to distinguish where one ends or the other begins; but on the upper part is a hole, from which, at regular intervals, the log-like animal blows out water, accompanied with a puff audible at some distance.

"As I was quartered here some time," said the colonel to his nephews, "I will amuse you with an account of it. This famous rock was anciently called Calpe, one of the pillars of Hercules. It is 1200 feet high. The town of Gibraltar is situated at the bottom of this mountain. On a view of this peninsula, which is only one mile broad and two in length, it may be perceived that nature has rendered it impregnable towards the east, and that art has done the same in every other quarter, by planting batteries in the rock. We have forced nature to bring forth whatever we please, insomuch that the earth now produces oranges and potatoes, in common with figs, lettuces, &c. The houses are small, but commodiously built. The town is lively; for it is inhabited only by soldiers, and you know that soldiers are never dull. Sometimes the officers amuse themselves with fishing or coursing, on the neutral grounds. Attracted by the allure-

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ment of gain, many Italians, Spaniards, and Portuguese have settled here, who exercise various trades. There are likewise many hundreds of Jews from Barbary; and as they are by no means held in contempt, it is to them almost a land of promise. St. Michael's cavern is well deserving of attention: it is extremely spacious, and upwards of 1000 feet in depth. You would be much amused, in contemplating in it the works of that Invisible Architect, who is ever active. After the second evening-gun, it is very entertaining to hear the whole rock resound with, *all is well!* which the sentries repeat every quarter of an hour. Next to Ireland and Jamaica, it is said to be the best government under the British crown."

To complete this wonderful day, which had opened scenes of so much novelty, grandeur, and beauty, to the eyes of our young travellers, the sun, before its setting, appeared of an uncommon size, and assumed a variety of singular shapes. It was surrounded first with a golden glory, of great extent, and flamed upon the surface of the sea in a long column of fire. The lower half of the orb soon after immerged in the horizon; the other portion remaining very large and red, with half of a smaller orb beneath it. The rim of the bottom extending upward, and the bottom lengthening below, after many twinklings and faint glimmerings, it slowly disappeared; leaving the clouds hanging over the Barbary shore, finely tinged with a vivid hue. "I

am not surprised, uncle," said William, "after what we have seen, that the ancients had various stories concerning the setting of the sun in the Atlantic Ocean. Strabo, the geographer, has affirmed that the orb became an hundred times larger than its common size." "This phenomenon will vary," replied the colonel, "as it depends upon the state of the atmosphere. It is likely to be most remarkable when westerly winds have prevailed for some time; these coming over the Atlantic, or bringing with them the gross vapours which arise continually, or are exhaled from that immense body of water."

Continuing their course with a fine gale, our travellers were much entertained with the different views of the African coast, and soon beheld the high and rugged mountains of Sardinia. The next night they saw many lights on the coast of Sicily. Here a most violent squall overtook them, with rain and thunder; the great agitation of the waves had prepared the captain to receive it, and he ran into Cape Passaro, where they cast anchor. This cape is the remotest and most southerly point of Sicily.

Fine weather and a dead calm having succeeded for two or three days, the colonel and his nephews went on shore, and amused themselves with gathering shells, pieces of coral, and several beautiful kinds of sea-weed: but they regretted very much that they had not an opportunity of ascending

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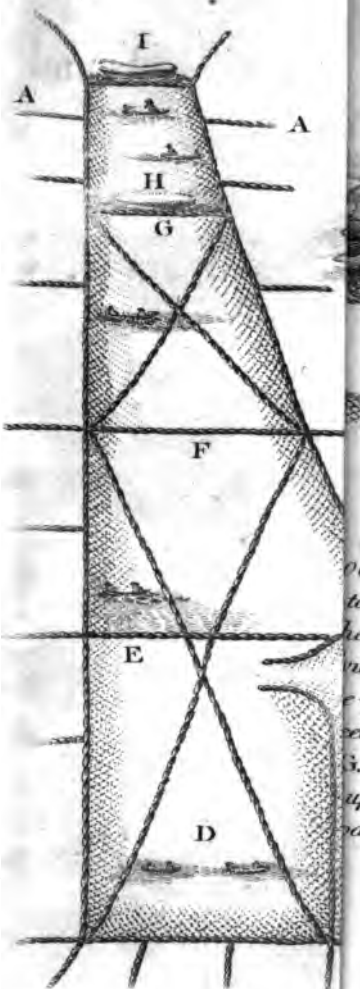

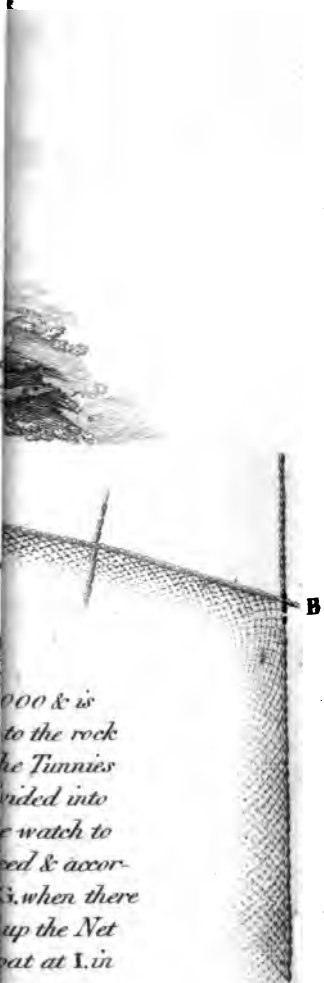

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ing Mount Etna, one of the grandest objects in nature.

> "From whose flaming caverns issuing rise
> Tremendous fountains of pure liquid fire,
> While wrapt in smoke the eddying flames aspire;
> Or, gleaming through the night with hideous roar,
> Far o'er the redd'ning main huge rocky fragments pour."

As they were walking about the fort, which is made use of as a place of exile for delinquents in the Neapolitan army, an officer entered into conversation with them; and finding that they were only waiting for a fair wind, he invited them to accompany him to a short distance, where there was a tunny-fishery. "It is a very curious sight," added the officer, "and will greatly amuse you: it is one of our principal amusements during the season; and the curing and sending them to foreign markets constitute one of our great branches of commerce." They soon arrived at the *tonnaro*, as it is called, which is made of strong nets, fastened to the bottom of the sea by anchors and heavy leaden weights, amongst the rocks that are most frequented by the tunny-fish. They take care to shut up with nets the entry into these passages, all but one small opening, which is called the outward gate: this leads into the first apartment. As soon as the fish have entered it, the fishermen, who stand sentry in their boats, shut the outer door; which is no more than letting down a piece of net, that effectually

fectually prevents the tunny from escaping. They then open the inner door, which leads to the second apartment; and, by making a noise on the surface of the water, they soon drive the fish into it. The inner door is again shut, and the outer one opened for the reception of more company. The last apartment is styled "the Chamber of Death:" this is composed of stronger nets and heavier anchors than the others. As soon as the fishermen had collected a sufficient number of tunnies, they began to draw up the net, which contained seventeen fish. Our travellers were astonished at their powers and strength; for with great difficulty could six men draw one at a time into the boat, owing to the force they have in their tails. They were then carried ashore to the slaughter-house, and cut up immediately with hatchets. They are salted down in small barrels, and sent to different parts of Italy. The tunny retains not only the character, but the habits of the mackarel. They resort in vast shoals to the Mediterranean, and from the earliest periods have constituted a great branch of commerce.

Our travellers having bought some pounds of it, for their future provision, returned to their ship, highly gratified with their day's diversion. A pleasant breeze springing up in the night, they weighed anchor; and on the third day were in view of the high land of the Morea. The horizon was hazy, and it was the opinion of the captain that

that the friendly gale, which had accompanied them so long, was likely to continue.

Their attention had been for some time agreeably engaged by the classical country that surrounded them, when they came in view of the Temple of Minerva, which stands on the steep promontory of Attica. They continued to gaze upon this noble ruin, until it died away in the distance.

The next morning they had passed Psyra, and in the evening were in view of Tenedos and Lemnos, and the main land both of Europe and Asia. They could discern fires on the island of Lesbos, as before in other parts, made chiefly by fishermen and shepherds, who live much abroad in the air. The sun rose beautifully in the morning behind mount Ida, and disclosed its numerous tops, and brightened the surface of the sea.

Our travellers were now entering the Hellespont, and passed between the two castles. These structures, with the houses, the turrets of the mosks, the domes and cypressess, the mountains and islands, formed a view exceedingly delightful. They next approached the inner castles, which command the strait crossed by Xerxes, three thousand years ago, with his numerous host, to go and subdue Greece. The first sight of Constantinople struck our young travellers with astonishment and admiration. "Is it not wonderfully grand," said their uncle: "one might gaze for ever on this superb

perb city without being tired. The whole earth, in point of prospect, has not any thing so grand, so various, and so beautiful." The water was covered with a prodigious number of boats, for the most part varnished and gilt. They were filled with persons of both sexes, whose eastern dress must appear pleasing in the eye of a foreigner: they cut the sea with astonishing rapidity, eagerly contending which should be foremost.

The ship having cast anchor in the port, the colonel and his nephews landed at the custom-house. They were soon conducted to the house of their friend, who was so happy to renew his acquaintance with the colonel, that he insisted upon their remaining with him for some time. William and Henry, wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the modern Greek language, easily procured a master from the class of interpreters, who are attached to the foreign embassies there; and by devoting a few hours to it every day, soon made great proficiency.

CHAP. II.

AFTER a month's residence in Constantinople, the captain called on our travellers to know whether they had any commands to England, as he meant to sail with the first fair wind. William, therefore, would not lose the opportunity of transmitting to his father some account of their observations on that capital and its inhabitants, in the following letter.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Constantinople.*

After a very delightful passage, we were received here, by Mr. H. in the most hospitable manner. His kindness and attention to us will leave lasting sentiments of esteem on our minds. He has told us to do whatever we please in his house; and to command him at all times but in the morning, as he is then employed in business. We generally breakfast in our private apartments, and after dedicating some time to study, wander about the city and its environs, being furnished by our generous host with every necessary accommodation. As this city is much too ample a subject for the compass of a single letter, I shall only mention those parts which particularly deserve attention. This capital being, like its parent city, Rome, situated upon

seven hills, is divided into four parts:—Constantinople, Pera, Galata, and Scutari. The second and third divisions are separated from the first by a branch of the sea, called the Port, generally allowed to be the best in the world; as ships of the first rate can moor close to the land, being sheltered on all sides. The last division, on the Asiatic coast, is separated from these by the Bosphorus, which is not less than two miles in breadth. I should suppose the circumference of the whole, including the water, to be from seventeen to twenty miles, and the population, in time of peace, not more than 300,000 souls. The houses are spacious, except the very crowded quarter by the water-side; they are composed of a ground-floor, which comprises the kitchen, a stable, wash-house, store rooms, &c. a room to receive strangers, and a yard in the centre, except in the abovementioned crowded quarter; over this there is but one story, where the family lives. This is the general construction of all the houses: they differ only in size and the number of apartments. It is a very unusual thing for two families to live in one house: it would be a great indelicacy, except it be two brothers, or a father and a son, among the poorer people. No city, perhaps, in the world, contains such a variety of inhabitants. The Franks dwell among the foreign ministers in Pera, and the Jews in Galata. The number of private and public boats in the port, and in all the villages to the

the Black Sea, amounts to some thousands. In this you must consider the situation, and that every one must go in a boat who goes into the country; at least to the part frequented, which is across the water; or to the villages, all built by the water side, and almost inaccessible by land; that there is scarcely any kind of carriages; that the inhabitants take great pleasure in going on the water, and almost all who can afford it have boats of their own; and that they make no use of carriages.

One morning we took a boat, and directed the men to row us out from shore, for the purpose of seeing to advantage this city and its vicinity, possessed as they are of every external beauty that can astonish and delight the beholder. It is in form triangular. From the north-eastern point of the seraglio to the seven towers, a distance of four miles and a half, its side, washed by the Propontis, bends into the noblest crescent of continued buildings imaginable. The appearance of the imperial palace from the sea is, perhaps, far beyond any thing of the kind that exists. It is defended by two walls, with bastions and battlements, and a platform of cannon at the angle on the port, which are fired on several occasions: particularly to announce the execution of some of its inhabitants, who have incurred the anger of the sultan or his favourites. The gardens rise gradually from the walls. On their summit are the buildings of the seraglio, which, though irregular, present, with their

their leaden domes and gilded crescents, a grand and magnificent aspect; especially as the principal defects are covered by tall cypress, and other trees, with which the pleasure grounds are planted.

On the other side of the port, which is crowded with shipping, and bordered with various buildings, such as kiosks, harems, bagnios, and the arsenal, rise the steep hills of Pera and Galata, covered with houses: among the most conspicuous are the palaces of the foreign ministers. It may be truly said that nature has been lavish of her bounty upon the Bosphorus; and the Turks, not insensible to its beauties, have filled its pleasant shores with their villas. On turning round in our boat, we were much pleased with the Prince's Islands, eight or nine miles distant; and still more with the mountains of Asia, particularly the snow-topped Olympus, which we were soon to visit. After contemplating in raptures, some time, this incomparable prospect, we returned and visited the *Seraglio*.

This celebrated palace, which stands upon a considerable part of the city, is divided from it by strong and lofty walls. It consists of three spacious courts and extensive gardens. To enter the first, we walked under the great gate, from which the Ottoman court derives its name of the *Porte*. It is guarded by fifty royal porters, who carry no weapons, at home, but canes. Upon the right is the infirmary for the invalids of the seraglio, and on the left magazines of arms, the mint, &c. The second

second court, the gate of which is also guarded by fifty porters, contains a corridor supported by marble columns, the spoils of Greece; under it is the station of the janissaries, and other attendants on the divan. Upon the right side are the various offices, and on the left the sultan's stables. No person but his highness can mount on horseback in this court. In the centre is a beautiful fountain, surrounded with cypress trees, &c. near which state delinquents are beheaded. At the extremity of this court is that hall of justice called the *Divan*. The vizier and ministers of religion are the principal members. The third court, or residence of the monarch, his women, his slaves, &c. is but little known, as none dare approach the gate but those who are called by the emperor. Even the prime minister, mighty as he is, trembles when he goes in on particular occasions; for many who enter it are never seen again, unless when their bodies are thrown out from a balcony over the sea-beach. This gate is guarded by white eunuchs, and the palace by Moorish eunuchs commanded by their general. It is impossible to conceive the human form more horrid than appears in the last of these beings, whose faces are mutilated, and their bodies distorted; and yet they principally possess the confidence and favour of the sultan, who bestows on them the most gentle names, such as Rose, Jonquil, Narcissus, &c. In consequence of this, their authority is so great

that

that the proudest bashaws of the realm court their protection, and shudder at their frown. Besides these, are mutes and dwarfs, to attend and divert the grand signor and his women. Thus the seraglio is, as it were, a little kingdom of itself, governed by its own laws, and known only to those who dwell in it.

It is impossible to give you any certain account of its female inhabitants; as information of this kind can only come from the eunuchs, or women whom the sultan has given in marriage to his governors; and it is not probable that they would divulge the secrets of the harem. We know that the sultanas have their separate establishments, and are treated with great respect. They consist chiefly of Georgian and Circassian slaves. It is a custom among the great men to present the sultan with virgin slaves, through the hopes that these may hereafter promote his interest. However, that you may judge of the numbers who live in this palace, I will just state what is said to be the annual consumption of provisions: 30,000 oxen, 20,000 calves, 60,000 sheep, 16,000 lambs, 10,000 kids; 100,000 turkeys, geese, and goslings; 200,000 fowls and chickens; 100,000 pigeons; without reckoning wild fowl or fish: of the last are reckoned 130,000 turbots. This immense consumption exceeds what the archives of all the royal kitchens of Europe can produce. It may remind you, perhaps, of the famous feast of Nevil, Archbishop of York, to which modern times record no parallel.

Every

Every Friday the grand signor generally goes publicly to one of the mosks. On this occasion he is attended by four or five hundred horse, among whom are his principal officers of state; and also by two or three thousand janissaries. As he passes all persons are permitted to present their petitions; which, when he sees lifted up on the end of a stick, he orders one of his slaves to receive. We have been twice present at this procession, and think it a most magnificent sight. The rich and various dresses; the beauty and costly trappings of the Arabian horses; the comely appearance of the janissaries, each bearing a wooden spoon in his cap, which is as much a part of their military dress, as the sword is with us; the body guard of the sultan, whose curiously formed caps of scarlet cloth are particularly remarkable: in a word, the splendor, the novelty, the silence, and the solemnity of this spectacle, must make a most powerful impression upon every foreign spectator. Before the mosk the soldiers were drawn up in ranks, to receive his highness; on whose arrival they gave a general groan, (which, we understand, is an indication of profound respect,) and immediately fell on their faces to the ground.

The next object that I shall describe to you, is the celebrated church of St. Sophia. The Turks having conquered their scruples of admitting infidels into their temples, we applied to the keeper, who

who stipulated that he should be paid beforehand; the price generally given being half-a-guinea. We entered by a vestibule which led to the gallery of the church. As it is customary with us, on entering a church, to uncover the head, the Turks, to testify the same respect, pull off their slippers at their entrance, and carry them in their hand, as we do our hats. The gallery, which is wide, and like the whole mosk paved with Cyzicene marble, is embellished with columns of antique green marble, granite, porphyry, and African marble. You would imagine that the dome was just ready to fall: at first view it inspires the beholder with terror, which, some some say, is the effect intended by the architect. On it, and in many other parts of the edifice, are inscribed, in large golden characters, the articles of their belief, and the name of the Deity, of Mahommed, and of the four legislators. As it was prayer time, we saw several Turks sitting together in groups, who were reading the koran to boys, or instructing them in it. Where the principal altar formerly stood, there is now a kind of niche, containing a large koran, covered with a green veil, and placed between two flambeaux, which are only lighted on festivals. On one side of the altar is a balcony with gilded lattices, reserved for the grand signor when he atttends prayers. This church has sustained considerable injury from fire and earthquakes; and, though it has been always repaired, is nevertheless in a ruinous

us condition in several parts. It is built in the orm of a Greek cross; and, according to those who have measured it, is 252 feet long, and 228 vide.

This temple was built by the emperor Justinian, n the beginning of the sixth century. The archiect, who had formed the design, directed by his enius the hands of ten thousand workmen; whose ayment, in pieces of fine silver, was never delay- d beyond the evening. The emperor himself sur- eyed each day their rapid progress, and encou- aged their diligence by his familiarity, his zeal, and is rewards. It was consecrated by the patriarch, ive years, eleven months, and ten days from the irst foundation; and in the midst of the solemn estival, Justinian exclaimed, "Glory be to God, who hath thought me worthy to accomplish so reat a work; I have vanquished thee, O Solo- ion!" But the pride of the Roman Solomon, be- ore twenty years had elapsed, was humbled by an arthquake, which overthrew the eastern part of he dome. Its splendour was again restored by the erseverance of the same prince; and, in the thirty- ixth year of his reign, Justinian celebrated the se- ond dedication of a temple, which remains, after welve centuries, a stately monument of his fame. poet, who beheld the primitive lustre of St. So- hia, enumerates the colours, the shades, and the pots of ten or twelve marbles, jaspers, and por- hyries, which nature had profusely diversified, and

and which were blended and contrasted, as it were, by a skilful painter. The sanctuary contained forty thousand pounds weight of silver; and the holy vases and vestments of the altar were of the purest gold, enriched with inestimable gems. The sum of one million sterling is the result of the lowest computation of the expences of this building. A magnificent temple is a laudable monument of national taste and religion, and the enthusiast who entered the dome of St. Sophia, might be tempted to suppose that it was the residence, or even the workmanship of the Deity: yet, how dull is the artifice, how insignificant is the labour, if it be compared with the formation of the smallest insect that crawls upon the surface of the temple!

I shall conclude this letter, my dear father, with just mentioning how it was plundered by the Turks after their capture of the city. "This earthly heaven; the second firmament; the vehicle of the cherubim; the throne of the glory of God," as St. Sophia has been styled, was in a moment despoiled of the oblations of ages; the gold and silver, the pearls and jewels, the vases and sacerdotal ornaments, were wickedly converted to the service of mankind. After the divine images had been stripped of all that could be valuable to a profane eye, the canvass, or the wood, was torn, broken, or trodden under foot; or applied, in the stables or the kitchen, to the vilest uses. At the principal door of the church, Mahommed II. alighted from his horse,

horse, and entered the dome, and such was his zealous regard for that monument of his glory, that on observing a Musulman in the act of breaking the marble pavement, he admonished him with his scymitar, that, if the spoils and captives were granted to the soldiers, the public and private buildings had been reserved for the prince. By his command, this metropolis of the eastern church was transformed into a mosk: the rich and portable instruments of superstition had been removed; the crosses were thrown down; and the walls, which were covered with images and mosaics, were washed and purified, and restored to a state of naked simplicity. On the ensuing Friday, the crier ascended the most lofty turret, and proclaimed the public invitation, in the name of God and the prophet; and Mahommed the Second performed the service of prayer and thanksgiving, on the great altar, where the Christian mysteries had so lately been celebrated before the last of the Cæsars. Adieu, my dear Father,

Yours, dutifully,

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

THE traveller who visits Constantinople, is almost as disappointed at the internal, as delighted with the exterior appearance of it. The houses are built of wood, low and mean: the streets narrow, hollow, and dirty: in every object he beholds the little progress the Turks have made in the liberal arts, and laments that its beauty should be confined to its situation. And the frequency of fires might reduce the capital to ashes, if a certain number of sentinels were not stationed every night, on a square tower of great height, which commands a view of the whole city, to give the earliest intelligence of them. When the Turks are dissatisfied with the government, it is by means of fire that they carry their complaints to the throne. These fires, though dreadful, purify the air; and serve in some degree to destroy those remains of the plague, which lying concealed in old warehouses and repositories, tend to perpetuate this fatal contagion. The expedition with which houses are rebuilt is truly astonishing; one would almost imagine that it often surpassed the rapidity with which they are consumed.

Galata is one of the suburbs of Constantinople, surrounded by walls flanked with old towers. The gates

gates are shut at sun-set; but those who wish to stay out until a certain hour, may find guards, who, for a trifling gratuity, will open them. Pera is but a suburb of Galata, in which the ambassadors and all the other Franks reside. It is a pretty Christian town, in the midst of Mahommedanism. The most remarkable antiquities of Contantinople are a sarcophagus, supposed to be the tomb of Constantine; the historical column, so named from the military actions of the emperor Arcadius sculptured on it in bas-relief; and the pillar of porphyry, vulgarly called the *burnt pillar*. It consists of various pieces, curiously joined together by bandages of copper, in the form of laurel wreaths. As it has been often exposed to fires, it is bound round with several iron hoops, to keep it together. It was erected in honour of Constantine, whose statue in brass was placed on the top.

The hippodrome, or race-course, was another object of our travellers' attention. Under the Greek empire it was the fairest ornament of Constantinople. At one extremity is an Egyptian obelisk, fifty feet high, and all of one piece: at the other a column composed of several blocks of marble, and between them a serpentine pillar, supposed to be the very tripod that stood over the mephitic vapour in the temple of Delphi. It is sixteen feet high, and represented three twisted serpents; the heads of which remained at the top of it, until Mahommed the Second, in a wanton display

isplay of strength, shattered, with his iron-mace, he under jaw of one of these monsters. The tripod, after the defeat of Xerxes, was consecrated in the temple by the victorious Greeks. This circus still serves the Turks as a place of exercise for their horses. But a part of it is occupied by a superb mosk, with three galleries and six turrets, built in a style of boldness, neatness, and elegance. The royal mosks are all superb edifices, being built of the finest stone, and the best marble, with which the temples of the neighbouring Greek cities were embellished. At a short distance from the hippodrome is a subterraneous place, where above one thousand columns are seen supporting a vast vault. It is said to have been a cistern made by the Greek emperors, that they might not want water in time of war.

We shall close this chapter with a letter from Henry to his mother.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Constantinople.*

Were it not for the constant apprehensions, under which Europeans live here, of the plague, I should be delighted with making it my residence for many months. The prospect of beauty, of safety, and of wealth, united in a single spot, was sufficient to justify the choice of Constantine the Great, in making this city the capital of the East. Nothing in the world can equal in beauty the channel which separates Europe from Asia; and its greatest

greatest breadth no where exceeds two miles. These two continents, from time to time, present most picturesque views; which, by acquiring a new variety, become more and more interesting and delightful as you recede from Constantinople. They consist sometimes of villages, sometimes of valleys, shaded by gloomy forests, and hills planted with the linden, the ash, the poplar, and the plane-tree, whose towering heads are lost in the clouds, and under whose eternal shade the weary traveller seems invited to repose.

The harbour, which may be considered as an arm of the Bosphorus, obtained, in a very remote period, the denomination of the *Golden Horn*. The curve which it describes might be compared to the horn of an ox. The epithet of *golden* was expressive of the riches which every wind wafted into the secure and capacious port. As the vicissitudes of tides are scarcely felt in these seas, the constant depth of the harbour allows goods to be landed on the quays without the assistance of boats. And the sea of Marmora has ever been renowned for an inexhaustible store of the most exquisite fish, particularly sturgeon, mullet, eels, and pilchards, that are taken in their stated seasons, without skill, and almost without labour. As the Turks are bad fishermen, they are supplied with fish by the Greeks. These people still seem to retain the dominion of the neighbouring seas, for all the

fisheries and maritime commerce are in their hands.

The Turks extend their charity so far as to bequeath legacies to pigeons, cats, and dogs, the number of which is almost infinite. These dogs, however, do not on that account become much fatter; for you may count their bones through their skin. They assemble in groups in the streets, which to them are so many separate districts; and they seem to make it a law never to desert that which belongs to them. Should any unhappy novice chance to transgress, those upon whose district he infringes fall upon him, in order to make him behave better.

We have been to see the place where coffee is prepared for use. It is a large room, where between two and three hundred men were employed in clearing, baking, and pounding the berries. A cloud of dust rose from the mortars, whose fragrancy could not, I think, be exceeded by the perfumed gales of Arabia. It is said that one thousand *ocha's* are prepared there every day, each *ocha* consisting of forty-two ounces.

The burial-places situated on the entrance into Pera, form a melancholy spectacle, which first attracts the attention of the traveller. Affected at the sight of the tombs and the cypress trees which surround them, and astonished at the same time at the immense extent which the dead peaceably occupy

cupy by the side of the living, he is unable to refrain from that profound pensiveness, which often constitutes some of our most agreeable moments. No tombs but those of the Turks are allowed to be adorned with cypress. This custom of planting trees round the tombs is of great antiquity; for we read of it in Homer.

The grand signor, in obedience to the injunctions of his religion, gets up before sun-rise to offer his prayers to the Supreme Being. He therefore breakfasts early, and generally, in those mornings when causes are heard in the Divan, attends at his secret window. On other days he exercises or amuses himself in the gardens. At dinner, as in the eastern manner, he sits cross-legged upon cushions; the pages place before him a table about a foot in height, on which is spread a covering of Morocco leather. The meats, on golden dishes, are brought up to the door of his apartment by the maggiorduomo and his officers, where they are received by the pages and served. On Sundays and Tuesdays, when he rises from table, he goes to the saloon of audience, to converse with his ministers upon state affairs; and on every Friday goes publicly to one of the mosks. That day is held sacred by the Turks, in like manner as Saturday is by the Jews, and Sunday by Christians. You know it was on this day that Mahommed took his flight from Mecca to Medina, in July of the year of our Lord 622, from whence the Mahom-

medan æra commences, called therefore *Hegira*, i. e. the Flight. On the anniversay of this day every Mussulman is obliged to go once to prayers.

We have been fortunate enough to see the celebration of the birth-day of the prophet; and there have been every night superb illuminations in all the towers of the mosks. As the grand signor intended to go in state to one of them, we went and secured places early, that we might see him pass. You cannot imagine what numbers of people were in the streets, and the windows. It was a long time before the grand signor made his appearance, but the people waited for him with great patience. At last the janissaries appeared, followed by the domestics, the public officers, the principal men of the court, the mufti, the chief of the black eunuchs, and two dwarfs: these were all on horseback, and advanced two by two to the number of four hundred. In the middle of this cavalcade appeared the grand signor, magnificently dressed; his turban was enriched with a superb aigrette of diamonds. His sword, and two of his turbans, ornamented with precious stones, were borne by men. The taste, variety, and richness of the dresses, the turbans, arms, and the furs; the beauty of the horses, whose housings were edged with gold and silver, and covered with jewels, altogether formed a spectacle, no where to be met with but in this capital.

That love of splendid dress, which distinguishes the

the nations of the East, pervades every rank of females. Those connected with the meanest labourer occasionally wear brocade, rich furs, and embroidery of gold or silver, which are willingly supplied by his daily toil. In the streets no woman appears without a loose riding coat, with a large square cape, covered with quilted silk, and hanging down low behind, made universally amongst the Turks of green cloth. One piece of muslin she ties under her chin, enveloping the head; and the other across the mouth and half the nose, admitting space enough for sight. Yellow boots are drawn over the feet; and thus equipped the women walk the streets and bazars in groups of muffled figures, or go to the cemeteries, where, upon stated days, under pretence of saying prayers at the graves of deceased friends, they enjoy the shade of cypresses, whilst loitering away many hours; and show unrestrained happiness by the most vehement loquacity. Of the shape and air I can say little from our idea of loveliness. All the Levantine women, from their mode of sitting on their sofas, stoop extremely, and walk very awkwardly. Warm baths used without moderation, and unrelieved idleness, spoil, in most instances, forms that nature intended should rival the elegance of their countenances. The discriminative trait of beauty between the Circassian and Greek women, is the more majestic air and stature of the former, while the latter excel, upon a smaller scale, no less in

brilliancy of complexion, than in symmetry and delicacy of form.

By the laws the Turks are forbidden vessels and utensils of gold or silver, and are directed to great simplicity in every habit of life. This injunction does not extend to women, whose pride consists in the number and costliness of their trinkets. The chief luxury of the men is displayed in the number of their attendants, and horses with superb caparisons, often of embroidered velvet, and plates of silver embossed and gilt. No rich man appears in public but on horseback, with a train of footmen. Great expence, likewise, is lavished on the boats, which are elegant in a high degree, carved, gilded, and lined with rich cushions. The rank of the owner is ascertained by the number of oars, and in dexterity or civility no watermen exceed the Turks.

The manufactures among the Turks are very few. Muslin, and a variety of silk stuffs, leather, paper, and sabres, are those chiefly in which they arrive at any degree of perfection. For cloth, of which the consumption for both sexes is so considerable, they are now entirely indebted to us and the Germans. Embroidery with gold thread, upon leather or velvet, for pocket-books and horse-furniture, is executed with peculiar beauty by men; and the wives of poorer citizens are employed in working handkerchiefs. The polishing and setting of precious stones is a trade almost engrossed by the

the Armenian jewellers; but engraving signet rings, which are universally worn, with Turkish characters, is performed by Turks with great neatness. The embossed inscriptions on tablets, or on sepulchral monuments, have the merit of excellent finishing.

Physic is held in honour among the Turks, and yet they do not cultivate that branch of knowledge. It is strange that they should make no scruple of trusting their lives in the hands of a Frank and an infidel. Chemistry is unknown, and the most common preparations sold in their shops are coarse and inefficacious. Distilled waters are used as a vehicle, in great profusion, for almost every drug they administer. With no people, however, is longevity more common or extended, nor health more constant, than with the Turks.

The shops of cooks, confectioners, and fruiterers, are excellently stored, and served with neatness. For the greater part of the year, sherbets with ice are cried about the streets, at a very cheap rate. The bakers exercise a lucrative, but a dangeous trade, if they are not proof against temptation to fraud. Their weights are examined at uncertain times, and a common punishment, on detection, is nailing their ear to the door-post.

The coffee-houses, which abound, are fitted up in an airy Chinese taste, and curiously painted. Within, they are divided into partitions or stages without seats; for the Turks sit as the taylors in

England. The resort of all ranks to them is universal and constant; and some during the greater part of the day, which passes there, consume thirty or forty pipes, and as many cups of coffee, boiling hot, thick, and without sugar.

Besides these, there are shops where opium is sold; which is taken in gradation from ten to a hundred grains in a day. The preparation is made with several rich syrups, to render it palatable and less intoxicating. It is either taken with a spoon, or hardened into small lozenges. The Turks occasionally take it under an idea of its invigorating quality, when unusual fatigue is to be endured. The Tartan couriers, who travel with astonishing expedition, generally furnish themselves with it.

The Turkish Lent lasts for one complete moon, and takes every month in the year, in rotation. No institution can be more strictly or more generally observed; it enjoins perfect abstinence from sun-rise to sun-set, from every kind of aliment, even from water. These are, indeed, days of penance to the labourer and mechanic, but to the opulent only a pleasing variety; for they sleep all day, and in the evening feast and make merry, as if they exulted in cheating the prophet. Every night of this season is some appointed feast amongst the officers of the court.

As an indulgence from the severities of Lent, the Turks have their Beyram, and the Christians their Easter. At this season, those of every nation appear

pear in new clothes, and exhibit all possible gaiety. Places of public resort are then particularly frequented, and the pastimes and groups, excepting in their dress, exactly resemble one of our country wakes. The Turks are much delighted by a circular swing, made by fixing a wheel on a high post, from which hang many poles, with seats attached to them. We have seen several of these bearded children taking this amusement with great glee, and, contrasted with the gravity of their habits, nothing could be more truly ridiculous. The Greeks have an universal licence, dance through the streets to very rude music, and are in the zenith of their vivacity; but the festivity of the Armenians seems to consist chiefly in being intoxicated, and jumping with the preposterous activity of an elephant. The nightly illuminations, especially of the imperial mosks, produce a very singular and splendid effect. Within each of these, the vast concaves of the domes are lighted up by some hundred lamps of coloured glass; and, externally, cords are thrown across from one tower to another, and the lamps fantastically disposed in letters and figures. We have not been more agreeably surprised by any thing we have seen in this capital, than the whole appearance of these illuminations.

I shall conclude, my dear mother, with just mentioning to you, that Byzantium was originally founded by the Megarians, 722 years before Christ;

and rebuilt by the Milesians, on account of its fine secure port, and its favourable situation to command the Thracian Bosphorus; which afterwards caused its alliance to be courted by Sparta and Athens. The city was noble and spacious, enjoying a popular government, with fine public buildings, a strong fort, gymnasium, &c. It owed its great opulence to a lucrative fishery, and a duty on all ships passing to and from the Euxine, like Denmark at present with regard to the Baltic; besides the great profit that it drew from all the passing ships spending money there, and afterwards leaving goods for sale, instead of carrying them to the Euxine markets, when the season was not favourable for navigating that dangerous sea. Its salt fish was famous all over Greece. Adieu, my dear mother,

Your dutiful

HENRY.

CHAP. IV.

THE day fixed for our travellers' departure too soon arrived. The colonel having hired a clever Greek servant, and being provided with letters of recommendation and credit, embarked with his nephews at Tophana, a suburb on the opposite side of the harbour. It is a spacious square, which consists of a handsome mosk, the front of the ordnance office, a range of coffee-houses, and a large fountain in the centre, glittering with a profusion of gilding and gaudy colours. A few minutes' sailing gave the colonel and his nephews a perfect external view of the seraglio, with its domes and kiosks, clustered in splendid confusion, and intermixed with gigantic cypresses, rising from an elevation that nature seems to have intended for the seat of dominion over the whole world. Beyond, the hills of Constantinople, crowded in the richest group, and the immense fabric of St. Sophia, with the temples of successive sultans rivalling its extent and magnificence, complete a view of unequalled grandeur; and the sun hastening to decline, spread a glow which added incredible splendour to the whole.

To the left, on the coast of Asia, rose the town

of Scutari, the Chrysopolis of the ancients, so called as being the emporium where the Persians collected the whole tribute of their acquired dominion. It covers the rock very boldly, and is flanked by thick groves of cypress. Contiguous to the capital are cemeteries, for some miles in extent; in fact, the dead seem to occupy as much space as the living. Amongst the Turks a prophecy obtains that the imperial city will one day be regained by the Christains; and on this motive, a fashion is prevalent with those of rank to choose their graves at Scutari, that they may not become subject to their enemies, even in death; for Asia is the patrimony of true believers.

The Princes' Islands were now full in our traveller's view. It is said that the princesses of the Greek imperial family, who were unmarried, established nunneries, and embraced a monastic life, to which circumstance their present name refers. "In these delicious islands, my dear nephews," said the colonel, "whole summer days have been idly wasted by that extraordinary man, the Emperor Manuel, whose exploits appear as a model or a copy of the romances of chivalry. He possessed the iron temper of a soldier, which cannot easily be paralleled, except in the lives of our Richard the First, and of Charles the Twelfth. But the most singular feature in his character, is the contrast and vicisitude of labour and sloth, of hardiness and effeminacy. In the field he slept in the sun

or

or in the snow, tired in the longest marches the strength of his men and horses, and shared with a smile the abstinence or diet of the camp. No sooner did he return to Constantinople, than he resign himself to the arts and pleasures of a life of luxury: and the expence of his dress, his table, and his palace, surpassed the measure of his predecessors."

Our travellers soon entered the Gulph of Ismid, or Nicomedia. Above the surface are many bold rocks, and the shores at first abrupt to the water's edge; afterwards a collection of hills, thrown together in groups, and shrouded with a low wood, engaged their attention. As night advanced, fires on the distant hills, where whole standing groves are burnt for the purpose of making charcoal, produced a striking effect. The gulph resembles a bold lake, stretching in an oblong direction for more than thirty miles, and contracting gradually to a point, upon which the city of Nicomedia is founded. On their left hand our travellers saw Lybissa, celebrated for the tomb of Hannibal. After a voyage of twenty hours, they arrived at Ismid, and were accommodated in the convent of St. Basil.

This town is of considerable extent, rising from the shore, in a triangular form, almost to the summit of the hill, where the ancient citadel is still marked by walls and fallen towers. Nicomedes, the son and successor of the treacherous Prusias, king of Bithynia, was invited to this spot by the singular

singular advantages of its situation, and founded the city, giving it his own name. The inhabitants assumed the most honourable title that a Grecian city could bear, and claimed to be considered as the metropolis of the province. But its splendour was imperfect till the Emperor Dioclesian resolved that it should rival Rome. By his bounty and taste it appeared, in a few years, with a magnificence which seemed to require whole ages to accomplish.

In the year 303, when he commanded the persecution of the Christians, the great church, which towered above the palace, on an eminence in the most populous and beautiful part of the city, and had long excited the envy and indignation of the Pagans, in a few hours was levelled with the ground. After the removal of the seat of empire, Nicomedia gradually declined, the inhabitants emigrated, and the palaces fell to ruins.

The next morning the colonel and his nephews took horses to proceed to Bursa. After riding about two miles, they halted for some minutes at the head of the gulph, which there expands itself into a vast sheet of water, surrounded with hills: a spot exhibiting a sublime combination of mountain scenery, wood, and water. Behind was a spacious plain, where, during the Roman government, many legions were usually encamped, and where the Emperor Dioclesian declared his abdication of the purple; and the ceremony was performed

formed in the presence of the whole army. The emperor ascended a lofty throne, and in a speech, full of reason and dignity, declared his intention: as soon as he had divested himself of the insignia of royalty, he withdrew from the gazing multitude. He was the first potentate who, enjoying such plenitude of power, had philosophy enough to offer an example of resignation.

Our travellers had now made the whole tour of the gulph; sometimes through forest scenery, or orchards of quince-trees and vineyards. Nothing can exceed the richness of composition or of colouring, exhibiting masses of varying green and barren rocks; the road not unfrequently leading into the very waves, and always on the brink. As they ascended the heights, covered with dwarf oak and arbutus, with a few lofty chesnut-trees, they had a commanding view of the whole circuit of the gulph. The inhabitants of a village, on the highest summit, are employed to give notice of the first appearance of the moon in Lent, and are exempt from taxes in consideration of that service. The plain beneath was the frequent scene of military transactions during the siege of Nicæa, when the crusaders were completely defeated, and a pyramid made of their bones. A storm, which had been long gathering, here overtook the colonel and his nephews, and a tremendous war of elements ensued. Skirting the sands of the lake Isnik for two miles, the massive walls of ancient Nicæa

Nicæa appeared in front; and they entered an aperture overhung with ivy, and at that instant displayed by a broad glare of lightning. During the night the thunder increased, with slight shocks of an earthquake.

Modern Isnik is a wretched village of long lanes and mud walls, with spacious ruins of Greek churches, and even of mosks and baths of Turkish architecture, embosomed in groves of luxuriant cypress. This once magnificent city of Nicæa, whose walls alone exist, of all the splendid edifices of its first masters, strongly excites the idea of desolation. After Constantine had embraced Christianity, it became the apostolic see; and his council, held in 325, is a memorable epoch of the church. Soon after the Turks became a powerful nation, Solyman, upon his invasion of Asia Minor, established a palace and fortress, as the seat of his new empire, in this city.

At mid-day our travellers pursued their journey; and having gained the highest point of the mountain, sublime scenery was displayed in every distance. The lake below is nine miles long, with winding shores, and four broad in the widest part. The banks in general are tame, and at the head of it a screen of wooded hills. The road continued over a wide, sterile plain, encompassed by mountains, with frequent villages at the bases, around which the partial cultivation, contrasted by a barren champaign country, showed itself to particular advantage.

vantage. "How engaging are these villages," said William, "from their eligible situations; a village without a mosk is deficient in one of its most picturesque features, and if the hand of taste were directed to assist nature, a more perfect landscape could scarcely be produced. But nothing is seen to evince the industry and decent habits of a happy peasantry." From a small lake, they came to a delightful grove of chesnuts, with Mount Olympus rising to the left. At about three miles, under the highest cliff of a weather-worn rock, they caught a first view of the city of Bursa. The entrance is exceedingly picturesque, with the ruins of a palace and mosk originally built by Bajazet I. and inhabited by his successors, whose court was held there. "You know, my dear nephews," said the colonel, "that this famous sultan was shut up in an iron cage, after he was made prisoner by Tamerlane, king of the Tartars. He ascended the throne in 1389, and was surnamed the "Lightning," on account of the rapidity of his conquests. He strangled his eldest brother, being the first who introduced this barbarous custom among the Turks." Our travellers were politely received by an Amenian merchant, to whom they had a letter of introduction. A description of the city will be found in the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

OUR travellers arose early in the morning, and went to the warm bath. They were shown into two rooms of competent size, covered with domes, thickly studded with small hemispherical glasses, which admit a dim light; the pavement was of white marble. The first room serves as a vestibule and dressing room, and the other is heated by concealed stoves; in the middle is placed a marble slab, upon which the bather is seated, whilst two men with perfumed soap, and a piece of camel's-hair cloth fixed to their hands, perform a complete ablution. They knead the muscles, and give pliancy to the joints, by snapping them with the force of an electrical shock; but the whole operation is conducted with the most scrupulous neatness and decorum. After bathing they went into an adjoining room, where they found seats covered with mats, and carpets to repose on, and where it is customary to pass an hour; coffee, and pipes, and confectionary are offered, and it is then judged safe to encounter the open air. For all this accommodation not more than twenty pence is required, even from a stranger.

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The use of baths in Turkey resembles the lustrations of the ancients; and with an equal care of the health and convenience of their subjects, as that exerted by the Roman government, public baths are established in all towns throughout the empire. What is a luxury to all, is peremptorily enjoined to all by the laws of Mahommed. No married woman, whatever be her rank, is exempted from attending the bath every Thursday; nor is poverty an excuse, for certain baths are gratuitously served. Women never go alone to the baths. As some of them are capacious enough to admit of several harems at the same time, they become the most fashionable resort of females in superior life, and hours are passed there in conversation, and in partaking of elegant refreshments. Many, however, adopt the custom with such frequency and excess, that health and beauty are made the inevitable sacrifice. The bath is usually heated to 100 degrees. Few men can bear to remain in the inner room more than twenty minutes. Women stay, from custom, a much longer time. Few houses of consequence are unprovided with a commodious bath.

The next object of the colonel and his nephews was to visit the public buildings. The mausoleum of Sultan Orchan is conjectured to have been the ancient metropolitan cathedral. It exhibits a good specimen of the architecture of the lower Greek empire. The pillars are of porphyry and green marble,

marble, and the pavement is adorned with beautiful designs in mosaic. Here lie buried Orchan, the founder of the Ottoman empire, with his wives and children. In the vestibule hangs the great drum, about a yard in diameter, said to have been carried before the army of Orchan at the siege of Bursa. The credulous Mussulmans pretend that the spirit of the sultan appears there every Friday, to beat the drum, and repeat the rosary which lies on his tomb, composed of ninety-nine green marble balls, alluding to that number of attributes ascribed to the Deity by the Turks. The mosk of Mahommed I. is in the gothic style, and covered with antique earthen ware, which has a pleasing effect. In it are preserved too large beautiful korans, written in golden letters, which particularly attracted our young friends' attention. "The koran is a very curious book," said the colonel, "and singular in its composition, being at once the code of Turkish civil and ecclesiastical laws. Mahommed pretended that a paper copy of this book, in a volume of silk and gems, was brought down by the angel Gabriel, who, under the Jewish economy, had indeed been dispatched on the most important errands; and this trusty messenger successively revealed the chapters and verses to the Arabian prophet. The word of God, and of the prophet, were diligently recorded by his disciples on palm-leaves and the shoulder-bones of mutton; and the pages, without order

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or connection, were thrown into a domestic chest in the custody of one of his wives. Two years after his death, the sacred volume was collected and published by his friend and successor. The prophet audaciously challenged both men and angels to imitate the beauties of a single page; but his loftiest strains must yield to the sublime simplicity of the book of Job, composed in a remote age, in the same country, and in the same language."

Bursa is extensive and populous; but the streets are narrow, even for an Asiatic town. Many houses are built so entirely against the hill, that the upper rooms open into gardens. They reckon seventy mosks, but the greater part are neglected, or absolutely in ruins. The kans, or warehouses for different merchandise, are fine square stone edifices, built on arcades, containing shops and lodging rooms; with fountains in the centre. The market-house is a large building full of warehouses, containing all the commodities of the East. The best workmen in Turkey reside in this city, and are excellent imitators of French and Italian tapestry. None but Turks are permitted to live within the walls; but the suburbs, which are much finer, are filled with Jews, Armenians, and Greeks. The former came originally from Spain, and still preserve their native language.

A small distance from the city, upon the skirts of Mount Olympus, are seven hot baths, which are

are of very remote antiquity. They are all of considerable dimensions; the stream is strongly vitriolic, and in the open air much hotter than any mineral waters in England. The view of Bursa from the nearest of these baths, is wonderfully striking. The great feature is a naked rock, above a torrent bed, upon which the citadel was originally founded. There is a dry well, of tremendous depth, which was used by the Sultan Orchan as a prison for his captives of high rank; and to which, even still, dishonest bakers are condemned for several days, in proportion to their offence. "This view," said Henry, "is peculiar and beautiful, from the sudden elevation of the back ground, the variety of situation in which the houses are clustered, and the rich verdure of the chesnut groves and inclosures of white mulberry trees, that embellish the environs for a certain distance with the most luxuriant vegetation." The whole town, and all its public buildings, offer repeated evidences of former splendour.

The colonel and his nephews commenced, one morning, the ascent of Mount Olympus, one of the most arduous that can be imagined. It is a collection of vast mountains, about forty miles in circumference, heaped one on another, rather than a single mass; and may be divided into three regions. The first abounds with mulberry trees and various shrubs; they then came to a chesnut grove, which leads to a plain. The ancient inhabitants instituted orgies in honour of Hylas, the favourite

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of Hercules, and ran about this forest as if in search of him. The fruit of the chesnuts is sent in great quantities to the capital, and other parts of the kingdom. Advancing a mile or two, they entered a grove of pines and silver firs. The second region of level ground was at length gained, which is covered with large fragments of rock, and innumerable bushes of the red-berried juniper.

The distance from Bursa now exceeded ten miles; and the greater part of this formidable tract is as steep as the common elevation of a flight of steps. Indeed, with any but Turkish horses the access would be absolutely impracticable, but their steadiness and agility is wonderful. Of lofty views, few from mere height are superior: it commands the Sea of Marmora, with the domes of Constantinople occasionally to be seen, though at a distance of one hundred miles; the Gulph of Modania, the Lake of Apollonia, and the dividing chain of Bithynian mountains. A level plain extends for some miles, when farther to the south-east another mountain crowns this immense accumulation, and completes one of the highest summits in the world. In the third region the snow lies on the ground the whole year. On the south side grow abundance of curious plants, which begin to blow as soon as the snow melts. On all sides flow down numberless streams, in which are caught exquisite trout, the only fish sent as a present to the grand signor. Large quantities of

snow

snow are constantly sent to the seraglio, where it is sold publicly and privately, the Turks using it to cool their sherbet. The woods supply timber and charcoal, and large flocks are driven there in the summer to fatten on the plains.

The cultivation of mulberries, for silk-worms, is particularly attended to throughout this province. The seed is sown like small salad. The first year they are transplanted separately. The same operation is performed the second year, in another soil. The third year they are again transplanted in rows, in square pieces of ground, at the distance of a yard or two from each other. They are then topped, that they may shoot out on the sides. In dry weather they require water; and the ground is hoed round them twice a year, in April, and after the gathering of the leaves. When the tree has shot forth branches, and the season commences for feeding the silk-worms, they are cut off with the leaves, and tied up in bundles for sale. At the beginning of the season a bundle, consisting of twenty-five or thirty shoots, costs a trifle; but as the silk-worm grows larger and requires more food, the price increases double and triple. So that four bundles, which do not produce two hundred pounds of leaves, are sometimes sold as high as forty and fifty shillings. These mulberry plantations are very productive, for the same piece of ground produces cucumbers, melons, and vegetables. Some are even planted with vines, which are kept low, not to injure the

the mulberries, which are generally of the white species. A fair is held on purpose, in Bursa, for the sale of young trees.

As our travellers were amusing themselves with inspecting the various plantations, the colonel told his nephews that the old custom of hatching the eggs of the silk-worm, at the spring equinox, had always been adhered to, and was still practised in Italy; having been introduced by the Palermitans, and afterwards by the Lucchese, who carried from Asia Minor, not only the eggs, but likewise all the rules, prejudices, and superstitions, which were rooted in the minds of those whom Roger the First, king of Sicily, during his wars, took with him to establish manufactures in his capital of Palermo. On their return home, the Armenian showed the colonel and his nephews into a room appropriated to the hatching of the eggs, and gave them the following account of the process. "You see, gentlemen," said he, "that nature is not left to herself in the hatching of the worms, for we lay the eggs in warm places to produce more readily. As soon as they appear, they are put into small baskets, and fed with mulberry leaves. When grown to a tolerable size, the mulberry shoots, with their leaves, are laid in squares on mats, and on these we place the worms. Every day we add fresh shoots to the old ones, so that they form a kind of bed, which is renewed only three times during the process. When the worms are changing, they are supplied

with oak boughs, wherein they make their nests. On the twentieth day the pod is put into a cauldron, and beaten with a switch, and then wound off. The silk produced is perfectly white, and generally fine, smooth, and of a strong texture. It is weighed by the *tefe*, which is composed of six hundred and ten drams: and the annual produce is generally two thousand tefe. The prices vary according the quality, but generally speaking they amount to from seventy shillings to five guineas the tefe. A large quantity of it is sent to France, Holland, and England; but the greatest consumption is in this city, and in Constantinople, Smyrna, and Aleppo." "Is it not a very lucrative branch of trade?" said William. "Very much so," replied the merchant. "The inhabitants are mostly employed either in feeding worms, or in winding, working, weaving, or selling the silk. And a silk merchant, who has a capital of twelve thousand pounds employed, is not thought rich. There is a warehouse on purpose for the silk; it pays a duty of so much per weight, and brings in some millions of piastres to the grand signor. We reckon about one thousand looms in Bursa. Besides these, we have many other manufactories. The Jews work a kind of flowered velvet, which serves to cover pillows for sofas. Our tanneries are very fine, on account of the brilliancy of the red, yellow, blue, and black colours. The Turks perfectly understand the art of working

ing in brass and tinning it; for there is no nation which employs so much in their domestic utensils."

Prusias, king of Bithynia, the friend of Hannibal, against the Romans and the kings of Pergamus, is esteemed the founder of Bursa, where the short series of his successors was established in regal dignity, till the subjugation of the Anatolian provinces by the Roman arms. After the division of the empire, it remained in the possession of the eastern potentates from 947 to 1325, when it was taken by the victorious Orchan, who established it as the Ottoman capital. It suffered much from the commotions of that rude æra, having been burnt by Tamerlane after his defeat of Bajazet, in 1377; and a second time consumed by fire in 1415, during the civil wars. In 1550, it had recovered its splendour so much, that it was then said to have been a richer and more populous city than Constantinople. The police is regulated by a magistrate of the third rank. In all cases of law, relative to inheritances, his tribunal is that to which resort must be had, and which is decisive.

The colonel and his nephews were conducted one morning, by the Armenian merchant, to a village five miles from Bursa, where they were introduced to a venerable old Turk, who was sitting in his open hall. Their repast was prepared at midday, under a shady tree, and consisted of rice and fowls, and rack diluted with water. He was proud

to show the colonel his horses and hawks, which were very fine. "I wish you had not arrived too late for the amusement of hawking," said the Turk. "In the provinces that royal sport is still followed by us in great style; but the sultans and the court have long declined it." "I should have been highly gratified," replied the colonel, "in seeing that marvellous art which teaches the birds of the air to acknowledge the voice, and execute the commands of their master. It was unknown to the ingenuity of the Greeks and Romans. The northern parts of Europe produced the boldest and most tractable falcons: they were tamed and educated by the roving inhabitants, always on horseback and in the field."

CHAP. VI.

OUR travellers were advised, by the Armenian merchant, to take advantage of a caravan which was sitting off for Tocat. The colonel readily acceded to the proposition. After arranging the baggage, and bidding adieu to their hospitable landlord, they left Bursa, in company with twenty merchants all on horseback. In crossing the plain, they observed the peasants cutting and tying up the mulberry shoots in bundles for sale. As they proceeded, they were met by some Greeks carrying drums. Henry wishing to know the meaning of this custom, was told by one of the party that a neighbouring village had the privilege of protecting the high roads. On this account they are allowed to carry arms, and enjoy particular immunities. The drum is beaten in case of any accident, as a signal to the surrounding villages, which are mostly inhabited by Greeks. At noon the caravan halted near the lake Sabanja, having passed through a village containing a number of forges for manufacturing plough-shares. The lake is about thirty miles in circumference, and nearly of a triangular form. It is a very fine sheet of fresh water, and abounds with carp and pike; and being situated in a woody country, adds

much to its beauty. The luxuriant aromatic plants on its banks, particularly engaged the attention of William and Henry; amongst them they discovered a species of the rhododendron, called by the Turks the poison flower, because, if eaten by cattle, they die almost immediately.

Continuing their journey through a very woody country, our travellers crossed the river Zakarea, over a wooden bridge about a quarter of a mile long. The caravan, however, was obliged to dismount and walk over; for, instead of planks, it was covered with half round pieces of wood, which frequently gave way under the horses' feet, and it had neither parapet nor railing. This river, the colonel told his nephews, rises in the mountains of Phrygia, and was emphatically styled by mythologists the mother of Hecuba, the second wife of Priam, because she was born on its banks. In the stream lies the island of Ada, inhabited by Turks and Armenians, and generally the residence of the governor of the province. In the year 1503, a basha represented to the Porte, that a canal might easily be cut from this river to the lake, and from thence to the gulf of Nicomedia; which would have been very advantageous for conveying timber to Constantinople, but the project was abandoned. In the evening our travellers arrived at Kangiek, where the tents were pitched. The merchants were obliged to keep guard all night, as the village was represented to be a nest of robbers.

bers. The next morning, in passing the gardens, the colonel and his nephews were struck with the fine plantations of quince, cherry, and prune trees. As they proceeded they met a hundred horsemen, conducting a Turkish basha, who rode in the centre of the troops, in a palanquin carried by four mules, two before and two behind.

They next entered a large wood, that required nearly six hours to cross. It is planted on numerous round hills, divided by sandy valleys of different widths. At one spot their attention was attracted by a water-mill for sawing planks; three hundred loads of them are generally sent annually to Constantinople. After quitting this long chain of hills, which the colonel imagined were the ancient Hypian hills, the caravan descended into the plain, and passed an ancient cemetery, where they observed the remains of capitals, and marble pillars. In the village of Duschea, the next station, they found all the kans full, on account of the constant passage of couriers, and other persons, going and coming from all parts of Anatolia, on expeditions and orders from the bashas, &c. The heat of the day did not hinder our travellers from amusing themselves with shooting pigeons, which were in great abundance. They likewise saw some black storks, which are seldom found in that part of Asia Minor.

As the next day's journey was a very long one, the colonel and his nephews set off with the cara-

van before day-break. After four hours' riding through the plain, and passing different rivulets, they began to ascend a high mountain, by means of a paved road, without which the passage would have been impracticable, because the rain and snow make the ground so soft, that the horses sink in up to their chests. "This road must have cost immense sums," said the colonel, "for the stones have no doubt been brought from a great distance, as there is no appearance of any in the neighbourhood." "It is a pity that it is not kept in better repair," replied Henry. "But do you not suppose, uncle, that these mountains are a continuation of the chain which we passed yesterday?" "I should imagine they were," answered the colonel, "they extend from north to east, and from north to south, and are of the same composition; masses of sand containing schist, which is a slaty substance; and loose pieces, that appear to be of volcanic origin." For five hours they continued ascending this chain of high mountains; vegetation appeared very backward, and the mountains to the right were covered with snow. Elms, beeches, oaks, planes, firs, larches, and cornel trees grow on these mountains. In the evening they arrived at Boli, where the merchants procured fresh provisions, and made different arrangements.

Boli is an open city, inhabited by about four thousand Turks, and is a place of great concourse.

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It is built on the declivity of a hill, fronting an extensive plain encompassed by lofty mountains. The only manufactures are some coarse iron articles and packing needles. The soil is fertile, and abounds with corn and cattle. Different rivulets run through the plain; and villages are scattered about. At the distance of an hour's walk from the city, our travellers visited some ruins, which the colonel conjectured were the remains of the ancient Hadrianople. Another object of their attention were the warm chalybeate springs. On their return they paid their compliments to the governor, who received them with great politeness. At break of day they left Boli, and in crossing the plain were astonished at the sight of the numerous stone coffins and marble columns, with Greek inscriptions on them, which laid scattered about. The colonel examined them with great attention, and found them all bearing the name of Hadrian. "These documents clearly prove," said he, "that the ancient city of Hadrianopolis must have been in this neighbourhood: and we know that the emperor was very vain of having cities called after his name." At mid-day they arrived at a village containing different kans, for the convenience of the caravans; and a manufactory of morocco leather, that is much esteemed throughout Asia. "This provision for pilgrims and travellers," said William, "by building houses of accommodation on the high roads, is certainly very commendable

in the Turks." "It is," replied his uncle, "and the same spirit induces them to dig wells and erect fountains; water being of the greatest importance to travellers, not only on account of the heat of the climate, but for the performance of the ceremonies of a religion which enjoins frequent ablutions." Continuing their journey through the mountains, the highest of them being covered with snow, a sudden storm of hail overtook them, which lasted about an hour: this caused our travellers to hasten their speed, and they soon took shelter in a wretched village called Hamala, because many of the inhabitants go to Constantinople to be hamals, or porters. These men form large parties, and proceed on foot to Constantinople, where they endeavour to save a little money, by a few years' labour, and then return: a chief is appointed over them, who it answerable for every thing consigned to their care. Those of Armenian origin are reckoned the strongest; and one man is capable of carrying a weight of five or six hundred pounds. Their method differs from the English, who confine the burden entirely to their shoulders; whilst the Turks distribute it between the shoulders and the hips. Having passed the river Milan, a branch of the ancient Bilis, they pitched their tents for the night near a large village, fortified with walls and a castle, called Cassaba. From the market they supplied themselves with fine fresh butter, and honey as white as snow. From hence the road lay through

through open plains, devoid of trees, and vegetation very backward. After three hours' march they came to Karagilar, watered by a small stream. The houses are as curious as they are bad. They are built of wood, over the stabling for cattle, and have the appearance of dove-houses. As they proceeded they perceived some mountains, which had the appearance of extinct volcanoes; and when they arrived at the village of Karagia-kran, which means "Black burnt Mountains," they were convinced of the fact: for the houses are built of lava, and have the same appearance with the villages round Mount Etna. It is built in the torrent of a mountain, across which runs a stream. The colonel and his nephews determined on visiting the crater, as the distance was very short; and William and Henry were very much amused with collecting different specimens of lava, and other volcanic substances. "What a fine field of investigation for the naturalist," observed the colonel, "I do not recollect to have met with any account, of this interesting chain of extinct volcanoes, in ancient writers.

On their arrival at the village of Borele, they were surprised to find the people lining the streets, and offering for sale bread, boiled eggs, cakes, &c. to any one who chose to be a customer: a curious speculation of the seller, and convenient to the passenger, who meets with plenty without expecting it. After six hours' riding, our travellers found the heat so excessive, that they pitched their tents

near the river Devres, a branch of the Halys, which rises in Cappadocia. As they were enjoying a frugal repast, the colonel said to his nephews, "We have an anecdote in history respecting the river Halys. Crœsus, king of Lydia, having made immense rich presents to the temple of Delphos, received this ambiguous oracle: 'If Crœsus passes over the Halys, he shall destroy a great empire;' which he interpreted in his own favour, and undertook a war against Cyrus, who defeated him—for the oracle meant that the empire which was to be destroyed was his own." In the cool of the evening, as our travellers approached Tosia, they were much delighted with the large plantations of rice, vineyards, and gardens, and fine streams flowing in all directions.

Tosia, or Docea, is an open city, under the jurisdiction of a sardar or governor, containing two thousand houses. It stands on the declivity of a hill, surrounded by rude and barren mountains. It comprises seven mosks, different baths and kans, and is inhabited by Turks and Armenians, who carry on manufactories of cloth, agricultural utensils, and leather.

In the chain of these mountains, formerly called the Olgassian hills, stood the city of Eupatoria, built by Mithridates. The district is now comprised in the province of Amasia, which was formerly that of Paphlagonia.

After a few hours' march the colonel and his nephews

nephews crossed the Devres, over a wooden bridge, and near it observed the remains of a fine stone one, which had been carried away by the torrents. The rice grounds are abundant, and well watered by artificial canals, cut from the river. Following the banks of the Devres, they came to the other branch, the Halys, called by the Turks Kizil-Ismak, or Red River, on account of the colour of its waters. They passed the night in a small fort called Hajee-Hamza, which is locked up every evening, as the neighbourhood is infested with robbers.

Continuing their journey, our travellers met with a new road, cut through the mountains, which shortened the distance nearly eight miles. The mountains, by their appearance, seem to have undergone some volcanic revolution. Passing the river, over a fine stone bridge of fifteen arches, the colonel and his nephew entered the town of Osmanjike, by some supposed to be the birth place of the first prince of the present imperial Ottoman line. The passage over the mountains became at last so dangerous, that our travellers determined to go on foot; and whilst they were amusing themselves with shooting hares and pigeons, a Capadji Baschi, an officer who carries the bowstring, attended by fifty horsemen, passed, and enquired who they were.

"This man," observed the colonel, "is dreaded wherever he makes his appearace: for he is always sent

sent upon some expedition fatal to the inhabitants; either to present the bowstring to a great man, who has incurred the displeasure of the sultan, and has no other means of avoiding it but by using the bowstring to strangle himself with; or else to raise some heavy contribution on the people."

Marsiwan, where our travellers next stopped, is a large town, situated near the foot of some woody mountains on the side of an extensive vale. It is well watered, and abounds with corn, as well as most kinds of fruits. There are many vineyards in the neighbourhood, and the inhabitants make a very good red wine. Poultry and meat are in abundance. Madder is cultivated, and employed for dying common things. The road from hence laid through an extensive plain, bounded by mountains in the form of an amphitheatre. The colonel and his nephews saw near the villages immense flocks of geese, which require a goose-driver, as sheep do a shepherd. They soon arrived at Amasia, from whence Henry dispatched a letter to his mother.

CHAP. VII.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Amasia.*

AS we are now at the distance of two hundred miles from Constantinople, perhaps an account of this large portion of the Turkish empire may not be uninteresting. The name of Asia Minor is attributed to the peninsula which, confined between the Euxine and the Mediterranean, advances from the Euphrates towards Europe.

The most extensive and flourishing district, westward of Mount Taurus and the river Halys, was dignified by the Romans with the exclusive title of Asia. The jurisdiction of this province extended over the ancient monarchies of Troy, Lydia, and Phrygia; the maritime countries of the Pamphylians, Lycians, and Carians; and the Grecian colonies of Ionia, which equalled in arts, though not in arms, the glory of their parent. The kingdoms of Bithynia and Pontus possessed the northern side of the peninsula, from Constantinople to Trebisond. On the opposite side, the province of Cilicia was terminated by the mountains of Syria: the inland country, separated from the Roman Asia by the Halys, and from Armenia by the Euphrates, had once formed the independent kingdom of Cappadocia.

Cappadocia. I need not particularize the journeys of the apostles through this part of the world.

Since the decline of the Roman empire, the peninsula had been exposed to the transient, though destructive inroads, of the Persians and Saracens; but the fruits of a lasting conquest were reserved for the Sultan Solyman. By the propagation of the Turkish religion, Solyman gained the title of "Holy Champion;" Arabian learning was taught in the schools; and the Turkish manners and language prevailed in the cities. Their governing power is felt by the inhabitants as iron which tramples on the clay; and that there exists no more union between the inhabitants of these parts of the Turkish dominion, and those who govern them, than between iron and clay, is notorious from the general disposition of the country to revolt and throw off the yoke.

We have had a very pleasant journey to this city. The forests, through which we have travelled, are above two hundred miles in length, and about sixty in breadth. In some places they are very lofty, and form an extensive chain of mountains, ranging east and west. Through the forests is a paved causeway, which appears to be very ancient, and is now much out of repair. The stones are very large, and the earth, in many places, has been washed away from both sides of the pavement, to the depth of nearly three feet. In other parts it has fallen down, but still serves as a guide

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for travellers. We have met a great number of buffaloes, carrying ship-timber to Constantinople, from the forests through which we have travelled. Some of the timbers were remarkably fine; and the whole had been squared and formed in the forests, where we have seen many sawyers at work. The houses, in one town we passed through, have a singular appearance, being in general built with large round trees, let into each other at the ends, and the crevices filled up with clay. In travelling through the forests, sometimes in the dark, we have been in danger of being knocked off our horses by the branches of the trees, and it was with some difficulty that our party could keep together.

Amasia is a very extensive and populous town, surrounded by many lofty, rugged mountains. The faces of some of these have nearly half a mile of almost perpendicular height; and in one of them are several places cut in the rock, similar to a Hindoo Pagoda, and which can only be approached by little narrow passes cut through the rock. The river Casalmack runs through the town, making a circuitous course among the mountains. It is here a very large river, but much too rapid for navigation. The town is well watered, particularly the lower parts, by means of large wheels near thirty feet in diameter. These are turned by the stream, having a great many large buckets fastened to them. As this wheel turns round, those buckets empty themselves into troughs fixed

fixed within a few feet as high as the wheel. The water is conveyed by pipes to the baths, fountains, &c. On the other side of the river is a fortress, formerly built by the Greeks, which is almost inaccessible. It is the residence of the governor of the province; and it has been customary for the eldest son of the grand signor to live there till he is called to the throne.

The houses are mostly built with wood, but many with stone, and covered with tiles. The greater part of the inhabitants being Christians, here is only one mosk and two lofty minerets, all built with hewn stone, and very handsome structures. They make a very good white wine, something like sherry. A Tartar, who had joined our caravan, having drank too freely of this beverage, attempted to shoot another, who was returning to Constantinople, but was prevented. It is impossible to describe the confusion among those people when they quarrel: upon the slightest provocation they have immediate recourse to their arms, (for they are never without a brace of pistols and a dagger by their side,) and some of the party are often severely wounded.

Amasia boasts of being the birth-place of the famous geographer Strabo, who flourished in the Augustan age: of all his compositions nothing remains but his seventeen books of geography; a work justly celebrated for its elegance, purity, and the erudition and universal knowledge of the author.

thor. Strabo travelled over great part of the world in quest of information, and to examine with the most critical enquiry, not only the situation of the places, but also the origin, manners, religion, and government of nations, the foundation of cities, and the history of each separate province.

Amasia was formerly the seat of the kings of Cappadocia, and in Christian times has been the see of an archbishop. The kingdom existed for more than five hundred years before it was reduced to a Roman province. It it said to have received its name from the river which separated it from Galatia. The inhabitants, according to the ancients, were of a dull and submissive disposition, and addicted to every vice. The Cappadocian horses were renowned above all others, in the ancient world, for their majestic shape and incomparable swiftness: with these they paid their tributes to the king of Persia, while under his power, for want of money. This province likewise gave birth to the great St. Basil, in the fourth century. His religious zeal induced him to visit the monasteries in the deserts of Egypt and Lybia; and his imagination was so impressed with the austerities of the devout solitaries in those sequestered mansions, that he withdrew to a retired spot in the province of Pontus, and embraced the monastic life: this continued for twelve years; and in 370, he was elected to the see of Cæsarea, which he enjoyed about eight yea rs. The talents and accomplishments.

plishments of this prelate have been highly extolled; few of the fathers occupied a higher rank. His style is pure, elegant, and dignified; so that Erasmus makes no scruple in equalling, or even preferring his eloquence to that of Demosthenes and the most celebrated orators of ancient Greece.

We visited, one morning, the once beautiful plain of Themiscyra, watered by the Casalmak and Thermodon, where the famous Amazons had their empire. Ancient writers have left us very singular accounts of this nation, in which women governed and conducted all their military expeditions. From Diodorus Siculus we learn, that among these one excelled all the rest in strength and valour. By her an army was assembled, and trained up in military discipline. She promulgated laws which required the women to engage in warlike exercises, and the men to remain at home in an abject condition, and to be employed in the most servile offices. The male children were debilitated in their legs and arms, so as to be unfit for war; and the females had their right breasts seared, so that they might be no impediment to them in fighting; and hence this nation obtained the name of Amazons, which word, in Greek, implies "without breasts." The queen, distinguished by her military skill, built at the mouth of the Thermodon a large city, called Themiscyra, and adorned it with a famous palace. The fame of the Amazons continued for several ages. Penthesilea is said to have gone to Troy, to the

the assistance of Priam, where she was killed by Pyrrhus: she was the inventress of the battle-axe. Thalestris, another famous queen, being desirous of seeing Alexander the Great, sent messengers to request an interview. Having obtained permission to visit him, she advanced with three hundred of her female warriors; and when she approached his presence, leaped from her horse with two javelins in her right hand. After observing Alexander for some time, with an undaunted countenance, she was disappointed, as his personal appearance did not correspond to the ideas she had previously formed of him, from the report of his signal exploits. When he interrogated her, whether she would accompany him in his wars, she declined, alleging that she had left her kingdom without a guardian. After succeeding in the object of her interview, she returned.

Some curious customs of the celebrated Circassians of Mount Caucasus, may serve to throw light on the ancient fables concerning that nation of warlike dames: for in fact, to this day, we are told that the women live separately from the men, to all appearance at least; and as, even in modern battles between the different Caucasian nations, these insulated viragoes have been found among the slain, completely clad in armour, a stranger, with but a little turn to marvellous in his disposition, might still imagine that he had discovered a community of warlike females, dwelling distinct from the

the men, and only admitting their visits to prevent the total extinction of their Amazon state; for in reality all this appears, and requires the following explanation to induce a different opinion. First, by an old established custom among the Circassians, the men steal in, like midnight thieves, to visit their wives, who live perfectly alone, without even a male child under their care; while it is a great disgrace for the men to be caught, or even seen, on such visits. Secondly, every boy is removed from his mother, as soon as he is born, to be educated solely by the men, in order to his becoming a bold soldier and an expert thief; which there, as in ancient Sparta, is a high qualification. Now, perhaps, any person, considering with attention these customs still existing among the Circassians, may readily discover in them the origin of the Grecian fables concerning the Amazons.

The territory of this city produces many fine plantations of mulberry trees and vineyards. Having heard the wine very much praised, we wished to taste it, but were astonished on finding that none was to be bought; for the Turks had been offering up prayers for rain, on account of the great drought; and until their supplications were granted, they allowed no wine to be sold. We have been agreeably surprised with a visit from our landlord at Bursa, who is going to Armenia, and has persuaded my uncle to accompany him, which I am very glad of, as we shall make a trip to Mount

Mount Ararat. We propose going from hence to Trebisond by sea; and when we have collected sufficient matter for another letter, you shall hear from us.

Believe me,

Your affectionate son,

HENRY.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

IN a few days the colonel and his nephew, with the American merchant, embarked at the mouth of the river, and proceeded along the coast of the ancient Amazons, which afforded them many delightful views. The next day they anchored in the little river Vatizah, close to the village of the same name. Finding the sea too rough for their small boat they were induced to stop, and amused themselves in collecting curious plants, which abound on the neighbouring hills. The following morning they rowed about twenty miles before dinner, and moored at the foot of an old castle. Keresoun was the first town they passed, built on the sea shore, between two very steep rocks. Cherry trees grow wild in the neighbourhood; and from thence the colonel told his nephews that they were first introduced into Italy, by Lucullus, so celebrated for his fondness of luxury, and for his military talents. In this town the ten thousand Greeks, who had been at the battle of Babylon, in the army of Cyrus, passed in review before their generals.

Nature still preserves her beauty all along the coast, for the inhabitants are too thinly scattered to exhaust it. Our travellers soon arrived at Trebisond, and were conveyed to the house of a relation

by

by their Armenian friend, where William wrote the following letter to his father:

MY DEAR FATHER, *Trebisond.*

THIS city was formerly a colony that yielded to none founded by the Greeks. It was a place of great trade in all ages, although it began, like many others of the Greek settlements, by exporting fish: but it soon found means to add iron, and even the precious metals, which they obtained from their neighbours the Chaldeans, then the most expert miners and workers in iron of the West. During the middle ages, the Venetians, and their successors the Genoese, had most flourishing colonies here, from which they carried on a great trade. For a time it was the emporium of the East India trade, and long the common depositary of the Christians in the neighbouring countries, who brought their merchandise to be sold and exported from this place.

The great Xenophon, who passed through this city when he led back the remains of the ten thousand Greeks, relates the melancholy accident that happened to them from eating too much honey. They were seized with vomitings and purgings, attended with delirium; so that the least affected appeared like men intoxicated, and the others like mad men. No one, however, died of it, and the disorder ceased the next day about the same hour that it began. It is most probable

 that

that this honey was sucked from a species of the yellow rose-laurel, very common in the neighbourhood, and still reckoned unwholesome; for the inhabitants maintain that honey, sucked by the bees from that flower, stupifies and causes loathings.

Perhaps it may amuse you to hear how this city was besieged by the Goths, in their first naval expedition. After Trebisond became a Roman conquest, it derived its wealth and splendour from the munificence of the emperor Hadrian, who had constructed an artificial port, on a coast left destitute by nature of secure harbours. A double inclosure of walls seemed to defy the fury of the Goths, and the garrison had been strengthened by ten thousand men. But there are not any advantages capable of supplying the absence of discipline and vigilance. The numerous garrison, dissolved in riot and luxury, disdained to guard their impregnable fortifications. The Goths soon discovered the supine negligence of the besieged; erected a lofty pile of faggots; ascended the walls in the silence of the night; and entered the defenceless city, sword in hand. A general massacre of the people ensued, whilst the affrighted soldiers escaped through the opposite gates of the town. The most holy temples, and the most splendid edifices, were involved in a common destruction. The booty which fell into the hands of the Goths was immense: the wealth of the adjacent countries had

been deposited in the Trebisond, as in a secure place of refuge. The number of captives was incredible; and the rich spoils filled a large fleet of ships which had been found in the port. Trebisond was also the capital of a principality, in the disposal of the emperors of the East; for Alexis Comnenes took possession of it in 1204, with the title of Duke, when the French and Venetians made themselves masters of Constantinople: in whose family the dukedom remained above two centuries and a half. The last duke, David, was invested in his capital, with a fleet and army, by Mahomed II. and the negociation was comprised in a short and peremptory question: "Will you secure your life and treasures by resigning your kingdom? or had you rather forfeit your kingdom, your treasures, and your life?". The feeble David was subdued by his own fears: the capitulation of Trebisond was faithfully performed; and the duke, with his family, was transported to a castle in Romania. The present city stands on the sea side, at the foot of a steep hill, and the walls are square and high, with battlements. The plan of this town is a long square, very much resembling a table, which in Greek is called, "Trapezion," its ancient name. There are more gardens in it than houses; and these, though well built, are but one story high. The castle, which is large, but very much neglected, stands on a flat rock, in which are cut the ditches. The port is

to the east of the town; and the mole, which the Genoese are said to have built, is almost destroyed: for the Turks give themselves very little trouble about repairing such works. This city boasts of giving birth to the famous Cardinal Bessarion. The emperor John Paleologus sent him to Italy, to the synod at Florence, where his prudent conformity to the union of the Greek church was rewarded with the purple by Pope Eugenius IV. in 1439. He fixed his residence at Rome; and this Greek cardinal, the titular patriarch of Constantinople, was respected as the chief and protector of his nation. His abilities were exercised in the legations of Bologna, Venice, Germany, and France; and his election to the chair of St. Peter floated for a moment on the uncertain breath of a conclave. For the cardinals knocked at his door, but his conclavist refused to interrupt the studies of Bessarion: "Nicholas," said he, "thy respect has cost thee a hat, and me the tiara." His ecclesiastical honours diffused a splendour and pre-eminence over his literary merit and service. His palace was a school. As often as the cardinal visited the Vatican, he was attended by a learned train of both nations; of men applauded by themselves and the public; and whose writings, now overspread with dust, were popular and useful in their own times.

We have made an excursion to the great convent of St. John. The mountains round this convent produce beech trees, oaks, elms, ash, and fir

fir trees of a prodigious height. Finer forests are not among the Alps. The convent is built of nothing but wood, by the side of a very steep rock, at the bottom of the finest solitude in the world. The monks are wholly employed in their affairs, temporal and spiritual, without learning, politeness, or books. The staircase to the convent is of a very singular structure: it consists of two trunks of ash, reclined against the wall, and placed upon the same line, like the mounters of a ladder; instead of steps, they have only cut in them large notches, from space to space, and on each side they have very wisely set a pole, to keep people from breaking their necks; for without the assistance of these, the best rope-dancer in Europe might fail in climbing up it. The very first inhabitants of the earth could not make a more simple ladder: the bare sight of it gives an idea of the infancy of the world. All the parts round this convent are a perfect image of pure nature: numerous springs form a lovely stream, full of fine trout, and running through verdant meads and shady groves, that one would imagine must inspire the noblest sentiments; yet the monks are perfectly insensible to all these beauties. In short, their house appears to be a sort of cave, to which these good people have retired, to avoid the insults of the Turks, and to pray at their ease. These hermits possess all the country for above six miles round: they have several farms amongst the mountains, and a num-

ber of houses in Trebisond. But what signifies all this wealth to those who must not enjoy it? For they dare not build a handsome church or convent, lest the Turks should exact from them the sums set apart for those structures, when once begun.

Adieu, my dear father, your dutiful son,

WILLIAM.

As the colonel and his nephews were now going to quit the shores of the Black Sea, Henry availed himself of the opportunity of sending an account of it to his sister.

MY DEAR SIBELLA, *Trebisond.*

AS you are very fond of geography, allow me to add to your stock of knowledge the following observations on the Black Sea. It was originally called *Axeinus*, or inhospitable, on account of the savage manners of the inhabitants on its coasts. Commerce with foreign nations, and the plantation of colonies, gradually softened their roughness, and the sea then assumed the name of *Euxinus*, or hospitable. We are told, that on the fall of Troy the restless Grecian chiefs dispersed in quest of exploits. The discovery of the rich countries on the

the shores of the Black Sea opened a new and vast field for commerce and colonization to bold and enterprising maritime states; although they clothed the great event in the dress of fable, according to their usual custom in all such cases.

The first species of commerce in which the Greeks engaged was the fisheries; that, of all others, the best calculated to lay the foundation of future greatness, as it not only tended to augment their infant marine, for the protection of the colonies already formed, but likewise to give them the command of the Euxine; with the facility of forming others on its shores, whenever they thought proper. Besides making their fisheries subservient to their nourishment, they likewise exported great quantities; and a deficiency of salt for this last purpose, which they only procured from some works on the river Halys, struck out another lucrative branch of trade; for it obliged them to find out a way of extracting oil from the larger kinds of fish, more particularly the dolphin; and it found a most ready sale abroad, at a time when oil alone lighted the houses of all ranks of people, before the invention of candles.

The next valuable branch of commerce, which the Greeks fell into on the Euxine, was the rich Indian trade, carried on far beyond the reach of history. We are told, that at first the Greek settlers went as far as Nineveh, then the great mart for Indian goods, to purchase their cargoes; till,

on acquiring more knowledge of the trade, they discovered that they could procure them much cheaper by dealing directly with the Indian merchants, who brought them as far as the Caspian Sea, only three hundred and seventy-five miles from their principal settlement on the river Phasis, to which their ships could come up and load.

As soon as those warlike and aspiring republicans, the Romans, became sovereigns of the country, they established their emporium for the Indian trade in the city of Phasis, in Colchis, now called Mingrelia. On the banks of the river of the same name was the native habitation of the pheasant. One article of oriental merchandise, which the Romans obtained through this channel, was silk; a luxury highly prized, and astonishingly dear, in ancient times, till the eggs of the silkworm were brought to Constantinople, in the reign of Justinian, and the insect plentifully reared in Europe. This costly article they received, in all probability, from the Chinese; and we even recognise that singular people, in the jealousy which they showed of strangers then, as well as at present. These sly traders came every year to a certain river, and laid down their goods on its banks, for the foreign merchant to cross over and examine them; laying down likewise the proposed equivalent, or price, which the Chinese looked at, in turn, when the others were retired: and if they liked the bargain, carried away the offered barter; if

if not, their own goods, and left the market, without having exchanged a word with the strangers. It is impossible to close this article without a remark on the high antiquity of this commerce. Solomon traded to India upwards of seven hundred years before Christ; and he, probably, only followed a tract beaten one thousand years before him.

The Venetians and Genoese, during the middle ages, carried on the India trade by this channel, much in the same manner as the Greeks and Romans, though with more activity than the latter. Several bloody battles were fought between these two maritime republics, till at length Venice gave up the contest. On the fall of the Genoese, their rivals, the Venetians, again applied for the commerce of the Euxine, which the politic Sultan Mahommed granted, on the express condition that fire-arms and gunpowder should constitute a part of every cargo; by which means he soon amassed a sufficient quantity of both to shut up the Thracian Bosphoros against Venice and all other nations; a system which was followed by his successors for three hundred years, till Russia lately opened it again with the same key that Mahommed had employed to shut it.

The greatest bodies of water in Europe fall into the Euxine by means of the Danube. Though it only receives fresh-water rivers, yet the surrounding coast is full of fossil salt, which is constantly

melting into it. This sea has the advantage of ports and roads, or anchoring-ground, all round its coasts; still many shipwrecks happen every year, through the ignorance of the Turkish sailors, who navigate without maps, and without any knowledge of the situation of places, currents, &c.

Some of the ancients had an idea, that the form of the Euxine was that of a Scythian bow, when bent. The idea was not a bad one, if the Scythian bows were like those of the modern Turks; but then, it is to be considered that the ancients supposed the south coast to form nearly a right line; in which they were mistaken. According to the latest observations, this sea is seven hundred and eighteen miles in length; its greatest breadth is about half as much.

As rapid as the Bosphorus runs, it is sometimes frozen over. In the year 401, the Black Sea was frozen for twenty days; and when the weather broke up, such masses of ice passed by Constantinople, as alarmed the inhabitants. And in the eighth century, there happened so severe a winter, that the ice on the Bosphoros was strong enough to bear carts. And a Greek historian tells us, that on the breaking up of the Euxine, that same winter, he, with thirty others, passed the Straits on one of the floating islands of ice. These instances of severe winters justify the lamentations of poor Ovid, who bitterly complains, during his banishment, that not only the

Black Sea was frozen, but even the wine that he was going to drink. Adieu, my dear sister, believe me,

Your affectionate

HENRY.

CHAP. IX.

THE colonel and his nephews having laid in a stock of biscuit and rice, they joined, with their Armenian friend, the caravan of the Basha of Arz-roum. The caravan consisted of six hundred persons; half of whom were attached to the suite of the basha, the rest being merchants and passengers. The Turkish women were carried in litters, on the backs of camels. An officer marched a day's journey before, bearing a horse's tail, to mark out the place where the basha was to encamp. He was attended by Arabs, armed with lances and spears. The basha's music was disagreeable in nothing but their constantly repeating the same tune. One day the basha asked the colonel how he liked his music. It was excellent, he replied, but a little too uniform. The basha said, that in uniformity consisted the beauty of every thing.

The first salute usually began an hour before the march, to call every one up. The second was beaten about half an hour afterwards, which was the signal for filing off: and the third began at the moving of the basha; who always kept in the rear of the caravan, at about four or five hundred paces distant. The music struck up or ceased during

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ing the march, according to the caprice of the musicians, who redoubled their concert when they arrived at the halting ground; where, before the basha's tent, they stuck up the other two horses' tails which had been used in the march. The chief officer having received his orders, took the third tail, and went on to mark out the next day's camp. The colonel and his nephews were soon accustomed to this arrangement. They rose at the first salute, and mounted their horses at the second. The officers drove away the people like so many sheep, crying out *march, march.* They allow no one whatever to mix with the household, and he who should be surprised amongst them, would expose himself to the bastinado. The Turks are men of order in every thing they do, and especially in their marches. The carriers rose an hour before the signal, and arranged every thing previous to the notice for marching. Their exactness was admirable, and every thing was conducted in perfect silence. The basha's design was to follow the most convenient and best road he could find, though not the shortest; most of the merchants were displeased with this, but the colonel and his nephews were delighted, knowing that they should see more of the country, and that a safer caravan could never be wished for. But what gave them most pleasure was, that by the march of the caravan they should have time enough to botanise, both on the road and on the neighbouring

neighbouring hills. For this purpose, each provided himself with a bag, to the great entertainment of the merchants, who laughed heartily at seeing them get off and on again at every moment, only to pick up a few plants, which they despised because they knew nothing of them.

The second day they travelled from four in the morning till noon, across mountains covered with oaks, beech trees, common firs, and elms. The rose-laurel, both with purple and yellow flowers, frequently appeared by the side of the streams. They encamped in a plain covered with snow. Though these mountains are lower than the Alps and Pyrenees, yet the snow is not melted before the end of August. Their route still lay over these rude and barren mountains, where the cold was very sharp, and the fogs so thick, that they could not see one another at four paces distance. They encamped in a valley very agreeable for verdure, but incommodious for travellers. Not a stick of wood was to be found to boil their rice with. From Trebisond hither the country looked like the Alps and Pyrenees, but now the face of the earth appeared to be suddenly changed; as if a curtain had been drawn, and a new prospect opened to their view. They descended into small valleys covered with verdure, intersected by charming streams, and full of fine plants, very different from what they had hitherto seen. They next day set out at three in the morning, and passed through

through dry and open valleys. About nine they encamped beneath Baiburd in the plain, by the side of a rivulet. This is a small town, situated upon a very steep rock. It was reported that the basha would remain there five or six days, to try prisoners who were brought from various parts: so that they employed the rest of the day in looking for plants. But our travellers were deceived, for they were obliged to set off the next day, without having time to go up to the town. The road lay through narrow, uncultivated valleys, bare of trees, watered by a stream which they crossed seven or eight times. They next traversed a very high mountain, covered with pines and beautiful cedars. Having now entered Great Armenia, and marching through fruitful meadows, sown with all kinds of grain, they encamped close to the bridge of Elijah, built over one of the arms of the Euphrates. It is only a pitiful village, the houses built of mud, and most of them in a ruinous state; but the bath is what recommends the place. The building is very neat, octagonal, vaulted, and lighted from the top. The bath throws out two large streams of water, which is fresh and moderately warm. A great part of the caravan did not let slip so fine an opportunity of refreshing themselves after their journey. The next day they arrived at Arz-roum.

This is rather a large town, five days' journey from the Black Sea. It is built in a beautiful plain,

plain, at the foot of a chain of mountains, which prevent the Euphrates from falling into the Black Sea, and oblige it to wind to the south. The snow lay in many places, though in the month of June. The winters in this country are very severe, and the scarcity and dearness of fuel very great. There is nothing to burn but pine-wood, which is brought from a distance of two or three days' journey; all the rest of the country is quite naked. Neither tree nor bush is to be seen, and the common fuel is cow's dung, which is made into turfs. But the smell of it in the houses is horrible, and every thing they eat has a touch of this vapour. The colonel told his nephews that Lucullus, when he arrived in this country, was surprised to see that the waters, by their extreme coldness, killed the horses in his army; that there was no passing the rivers without breaking the ice; and that his soldiers were forced to encamp in the snow, which kept incessantly falling. And the army of the Emperor Severus, in returning through Armenia, suffered so much from the excessive cold, that they were obliged to cut off the hands and feet of several of the soldiers, who were found half frozen on the roads. The fruits brought from Georgia are excellent. That country is warmer, and produces abundance of pears, plums, cherries, and melons. The neighbouring hills furnish Arz-roum with very fine springs, which not only water the fields, but the very streets of the town. The colonel

lonel and his nephews found great difficulty in procuring wine or spirits, which are both very bad.

The Turks affect here more severity than any where else, and take great delight in surprising and bastinading those who carry on such trades: and perhaps they are in the right to prevent the sale of such unwholesome beverages. The town of Arz-roum is better built than Trebisond; it is inclosed by a double wall, defended by pentagonal towers: but the ditches are neither deep nor well kept up. The basha of the province resides in an old ill built seraglio: the janissary aga lives in a kind of fort, in the highest part of the town. The population is reckoned at about 18,000 Turks, 6000 Armenians, and 400 Greeks.

The Turkish janissaries are generally tradesmen, and are so far from receiving pay, that the majority of them give money to the aga. The best sort of people are forced to enlist themselves in this body; because, besides that they else would not be welcome to the governor, who is almost absolute, they would be daily exposed to the violence of their neighbours, and not able to obtain justice from the officers. The Armenians have a bishop, and two churches, besides monasteries in the country; the Greeks have their bishop likewise, but only one church, and that a wretched one. They are mostly tinkers, and inhabit the suburbs, where they make utensils of the copper which is brought from the neighbouring mountains.

tains. These poor people are constantly at their forge night and day; and the Turks are too fond of tranquillity, to suffer the anvil to be beaten within the town. Besides these utensils, they carry on a great trade in furs, and especially those of a kind of marten, very common in the province. They also bring large quantities of gall-nuts, five or six days' journey up the country. Arz-roum is the great thorough-fare for all the merchandise of the East, the silks of Persia, cotton, drugs, painted cloths, caviar, &c. Very few of them are sold retail; and a sick man might die for want of a drachm of rhubarb, though there were entire bales of it in the town. This drug is brought from Usbeck, in Tartary; and great quantities of madder are imported from Persia. There are some caravan-masters, who from father to son meddle with nothing but the carrying of drugs; and would think themselves degenerated from their ancestors, if they engaged in any other trade. The government of Arz-roum yields annually to the basha or viceroy, three hundred purses, of five hundred crowns each, which arise from duties upon imports and exports. Caravans set out every week to Gangel, Tifflis, Tauris, Trebisond, Tocat, and Aleppo. The Curdes, or people of Curdistan, who are said to be descended from the Chaldeans, keep the field about Arz-roum, until the great snows oblige them to retire; and are constantly on the watch for an opportunity of plundering the caravans.

caravans. If a good guard is not kept in the tents, they come privately and pull out bales of goods with hooks, without being perceived: and if the bales are fastened together with cords, they are seldom without a good razor to cut them. As caravans generally set out before day-break, the rogues mix with the drivers, and turn out of the way a few mules laden with goods, which they easily carry off in the dark: and they seldom choose the worst, for they know the bales of silks as well as the owners. These people rove every year from the sources of the Euphrates, quite down to Mosul. They own no master, and the Turks never punish them: even when they are taken up for murder and robbery, they are only made to redeem their lives with a sum of money. Besides, it often happens that a caravan enters into a treaty with them for a stated sum, which they prefer to goods, because they have not always an opportunity of disposing of them.

The colonel wishing to visit the mountains to the east of Arz-roum, he procured a letter of recommendation to the bishop; who generally resides at the red monastery, only three hours' journey from the town; and where they slept the first night. Being informed that this prelate was much esteemed amongst the Curdes, who were encamped near the sources of the Euphrates, they omitted nothing which might engage him to accompany them. It is impossible to be too cautious before venturing

venturing among this people; for they treat the Turks with as little ceremony as any one else, and will strip them whenever they find an opportunity. The only way is to have recourse to their friends, when a person wishes to visit the country where they make their abode. When they have eaten up the pasturage of one country, they remove to another; and instead of applying to astronomy, like their forefathers, study only how they may rifle passengers, and follow the caravans by the scent; while their wives are employed in making butter and cheese, bringing up their children, and tending their flocks.

Our travellers set off the next morning early, trusting wholly to the protection of the bishop; and begged him to put into his own purse a little money, which they had taken to bear their expences. At a neighbouring village they were joined by an old man of the bishop's acquaintance, who paid them abundance of civilities, and gave them to understand that he was very conversant with the language of the Curdes, and that he had friends in the mountains where they were going. They next entered some fine valleys, covered with beautiful plants, through which winds the Euphrates; and the streams that flow from the mountains abound with delicious trout. Near one of these, our travellers sat down to refresh themselves with some of the monastery wine, and banish all terror, which the dreadful name of Curdes had struck upon their

their spirits. For the bishop had held a conference with them, and after treating them with brandy, they took their leave. The tents of these people are made of cane-lattices, lined with mats, and covered with thick coarse cloth. When they remove, they fold up their tents like a screen, and lade them with their implements and children upon oxen. The children are almost naked in the coldest season; they drink nothing but water, half frozen, or milk boiled in the smoke of cow's dung, which they save very carefully. Thus live the Curdes, driving their flocks from mountain to mountain; and about the beginning of October go down into Curdistan or Mesopotamia. The men are well mounted, and take great care of their horses; lances are their only arms. The young women who are betrothed, wear a ring through one of their nostrils. They are very ugly, have small eyes, very wide mouths, hair as black as jet, ruddy complexions, and a very fierce air.

Mithridates passed by the sources of the Euphrates when he fled into Colchis, after being beaten by Pompey. It is very probable that the action happened in the plain of Arz-roum; for the two branches may be called the sources by historians. The colonel would gladly have visited the other source of the Euphrates; but the bishop told them he was not acquainted with the Curdes of those parts, and that they would see nothing but springs, similar to those that they had just left. They therefore

fore returned to Arz-roum. In the fields about the town grows a very fine species of poppy, the heads of which, when green, the Turks eat as a delicacy, though the taste is very acid and hot. They were told that three or four days' journey off were rich copper mines, from whence is drawn most of that wrought in the Greek suburb. There are likewise silver mines in the neighbourhood, but the colonel could not procure a guide because of the jealousy of the natives, who imagine that travellers only visit them to carry off the treasure.

CHAP. X.

IN a few days the colonel and his nephews set off for Tifflis, the capital of Georgia, having joined a caravan of merchants. The first part of the journey lay through an open flat country, highly cultivated and well watered. The land being impregnated with fossil salt, water is particularly necessary, otherwise vegetation would be destroyed. The peasants, therefore, yoke three or four pair of oxen, or buffaloes, to one plough, and turn up the soil to a great depth, that it may be thoroughly mixed with the salt. Continuing their journey over extensive plains, very negligently cultivated, the caravan pitched their tents near a stream. The next day's course was much more agreeable, as our travellers had an opportunity of examining many curious plants. "The shifting of the scene," observed the colonel, "affords no small delight in travelling; nothing can be more tedious than marching over vast plains, where there is nothing wherewith to call forth our affections: no sweet myrtle, or melancholy cypress to connect ourselves to." The mountains are covered with pines, but our travellers were not very attentive in examining the nature of them, as the caravan was alarmed from time to time with the sight of

of parties of robbers, armed with lances and sabres. At four o'clock the next morning, the colonel and his nephews set off with the caravan, and travelled till noon through an extensive plain. The soil, though naturally rich, is not very productive, because it freezes at night, even in summer; and the colonel often found ice about the springs before sun-rise. The husbandman yokes ten or a dozen pair of oxen to one plough; each pair has a man, and the ploughman pushes the share along with his foot, to make deeper furrows than ordinary. No trees are to be seen but a few pines, which are drawn into the towns and villages by oxen. The cottages, like those in Sweden, are built of pine trees, laid one upon another up to the roof, and fastened at the corners with wooden pins.

Kars, the next town visited by the colonel and his nephews, is built on the declivity of a hill, and is more than half the size of Arz-roum. The castle stands on a steep rock at the top of the town. Behind lies a deep valley, with a branch of the river Arpatchai running through it. Kars is supposed to stand on the site of the ancient Nicopolis, built by Pompey the Great, in memory of a victory, which he had there obtained over the forces of Mithridates. In 1579, Mustapha Basha, who commanded the Turkish army, against the Persians and Georgians, fortified Kars, and provided it with necessary ammunition.

After

After the caravan had remained there two days, to settle the custom-house duties, it departed next morning very early, to the great delight of the colonel, who had had a dispute with the Turkish officers, on account of the extortions he was threatened with. They pretended that he was a spy, and that some of the most creditable persons in the caravan were ready to declare, that upon pretence of searching for plants he observed the situation of towns, and took draughts of them; that he enquired into the strength of the garrisons; and they added, that spies were condemned to the flames in Turkey. The colonel retired to a coffee-house to wait the decision of this weighty charge. Soon after an officer appeared, with a forced smile of joy on his countenance, to inform the colonel, in hopes of extorting some money from him, that all the passages of the empire were open to him, but that he would infallibly have been stopped, or at least made to pay a very heavy duty, if his passport from the grand signor had not expressly stated that he was only an English gentleman, travelling for his pleasure. And, continued the officer, as the governor does not exact any gratuity from you, yet, you know the world better, than to go away without making him some small present. The colonel sent the governor a couple of English razors, and a few pounds of coffee, heartily glad of escaping at so cheap a rate. Thus the Turks always endeavour to raise contributions on travel-

lers, especially upon the frontiers; but they are generally content with what the traveller is pleased to give them.

The colonel and his nephews, with the caravan, set off at one in the morning, and travelled over an extensive plain till nine, when they encamped near a large village with a castle, which appeared to have been a strong post. Continuing their journey through an open, well cultivated country, interspersed with hills, fields of flax, and villages, they forded a small river. Near this place, the colonel and his nephews, with the Armenian merchant, quitted the great caravan which was going to Persia; and they were much alarmed at finding themselves reduced to so small a party as five persons, going to Tifflis. A Turkish aga, encamped on the road, sent two guards to learn who they were, but as they could not read, they only cast their eyes on the colonel's passport, and the Armenian merchant made them a present of a little coffee.

The next day our travellers pitched their tents in Georgia. This country comprehends the ancient Iberia, Colchis, and part of Albania. The inhabitants are Christians of the Greek communion, and appear to have received their present name from their attachment to St. George, the tutelar saint of these countries. It is divided into nine provinces; of these, five are subject to Prince Heraclius, and form what is commonly called the kingdom

kingdom of Georgia. The remaining form the kingdom or principality of Imeritia. The colonel and his nephews were greatly delighted with the striking beauties of the country. The hills are covered with forests of oak, ash, beech, chesnuts, walnuts, and elms, encircled with vines, growing perfectly wild, but producing vast quantities of grapes. From these is annually made as much wine as is necessary for the yearly consumption; the remainder are left to rot on the vines. Cotton grows spontaneously, as well as the finest European fruit-trees. Rice, wheat, millet, hemp, and flax, are raised on the plains, almost without culture. The valleys afford the finest pasturage in the world; the rivers are full of fish; the mountains abound in minerals; and the climate is delicious; so that nature appears to have lavished on this favoured country every production that can contribute to the happiness of its inhabitants.

The colonel and his nephews arrived in a few days at Tifflis, from whence William transmitted the following letter to his mother.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Tifflis.*

YOU will no doubt be delighted to hear that we are safe arrived in this capital, which I shall endeavour to describe to you. It is called by the inhabitants Tbilis-cabar, or warm town, from the warm baths in the neighbourhood. Though its

circumference does not exceed two English miles, it contains twenty thousand inhabitants, of which more than half are Armenians. The streets seldom exceed seven feet in breadth, and some are so narrow as scarcely to allow a passage for a man on horseback. The houses have flat roofs, on which the women occasionally walk in fine weather: they are neatly built, the walls of the rooms are wainscotted, and the floors spread with carpets.

We inspected, one morning, the foundery, at which are cast a few cannon, mortars, and balls, all of which are very inferior to those of the Turks. The Armenians have established in this town all the manufactures carried on by their countrymen in Persia; the most flourishing is that of printed linens, A large quantity of gold and silver money is brought into the country from Persia and Turkey, in exchange for honey, butter, cattle, and blue linens.

The subjects of the prince are estimated at about sixty thousand families. The peasants belonging to the queen, and those of the patriarch, pay no tax to the prince. Many similar exemptions have likewise been granted by the prince to his sons-in-law, and his favourites. Besides, as the impost on the peasants is not a poll-tax, but a tax on hearths, the inhabitants of a village, on the approach of the collectors, frequently carry the furniture of several huts into one, and destroy the remainder,

remainder, which are afterwards very easily replaced. It is probable, therefore, that the population of Georgia does not fall short of three hundred and fifty thousand souls. The revenues of this country may be estimated at about twenty-six thousand two hundred and fifty pounds. The government is despotic. The punishments in criminal cases are shockingly cruel; fortunately they are not frequent, because it is seldom difficult to escape into some of the neighbouring countries, and because the prince is more enriched by confiscating the property of the criminal, than by putting him to torture.

The dress of the Georgians nearly resembles that of the Cossacks; but men of rank frequently wear the habit of Persia. They usually dye their hair, beards, and nails with red. The women employ the same colour to stain the palms of their hands. On their heads they wear a cap or fillet, under which their black hair falls on their forehead: behind, it is braided into several tresses. Their eye-brows are painted with black, in such a manner as to form one entire line, and their faces are perfectly coated with white and red. Being generally educated in convents, they can all read and write; a qualification which is very unusual among the men, even of the highest rank. Girls are betrothed as soon as possible, often at three or four years of age. In the streets the women of rank are always veiled, and then it is indelicate

in any man to accost them. It is likewise uncivil in conversation to enquire after the wives of any of the company.

The Georgians are accused of drunkenness, superstition, cruelty, sloth, avarice, and cowardice; if it be true, they are vices every where common to slaves and tyrants, and are by no means peculiar to the natives of this country. Armenians are found all over Georgia, sometimes mixed with the natives, and sometimes in villages of their own. They are the most oppressed of the inhabitants, but are still distinguished by that instinctive industry which every where characterises the nation: besides these, there are considerable numbers of Jews, who pay a small tribute above that of the natives.

As we have not visited Mount Caucasus, I cannot tell you much respecting that chain of mountains. They extend from the Black Sea to the Caspian, a distance, perhaps, of five hundred miles, and are inhabited by distinct nations, each speaking a separate language. Among the mountaineers the object of education is robbery, but they receive with disinterested hospitality and kindness such as court their protection. The Circassians are the most powerful people on the northern side of Caucasus; they are divided into three classes. A certain number of the people is allotted to each princely family. The eldest individual is considered as chief of the family, and as judge,

judge, protector, and father of all the vassals attached to it. No prince can be a landholder: he has no other property than his arms, his horses, his slaves, and the tribute he may be able to extort from the neighbouring nations. The princes are not to be distinguished in time of peace from the nobles, or even from the peasants: their food and dress are the same, and their houses little better.

The Circassians are governed by a collection of ancient usages. On great occasions the whole nation is assembled: a measure is proposed by the oldest of the princes; if the proposition is accepted, it becomes a national resolution, and is confirmed by a solemn oath by the whole people. The Circassians have few manufactures. The points of their arrows are the only articles of iron which they work up themselves. They make, indeed, some very fine cloths, and felt for cloaks. Their coats of mail, which are very beautiful, are brought from Persia. Sheep and horses are the principal articles of their commerce; particularly the latter, which sell at a very high price.

At the birth of a prince, a noble is chosen by the father as his future preceptor. At a year old he is presented with some play-things and arms: if he appears to prefer the latter, the event is celebrated in the family by great rejoicings. At seven years of age he leaves his father's house, for that of his preceptor. By him he is taught to ride, to use his arms, and to steal and conceal his thefts. The

thief is a term of the utmost reproach amongst them, because it implies detection. The preceptor is recompensed for his trouble by nine-tenths of the booty made by the pupil while under his tuition.

The Circassian women participate in the general character of the nation; they take pride in the courage of their husbands, and reproach them severely when defeated. They polish and take care of the armour of the men. Widows tear their hair, and disfigure themselves with scars, in testimony of their grief. Before marriage, the youth of both sexes see each other freely at the little rejoicings which take place on festivals. Before the ball, the young men show their activity and address in a variety of military exercises, and the most alert have the privilege of chusing the most beautiful partners. Their dances are in the Asiatic style, with very little gaiety or expression. Girls are brought up by the mother. They learn to embroider, to make their own dress and that of their future husbands. The daughters of slaves receive the same education, and are sold, according to their beauty, from twenty to one hundred pounds. These are principally Georgians. Adieu, my dear mother, and believe me

Your affectionate
WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

THE colonel and his nephews now proceeded on their journey towards Mount Ararat, and joined a caravan, at some distance from Tifflis, that was encamped on an extensive plain, covered with orchards and gardens, and watered by the river Kur. The merchants of the caravan furnished themselves there with a fine sort of reeds, adapted to the oriental style of writing. The next day they encamped on the mountains covered with woods and pasturage. The fine plants they met with beguiled the fatigue of their journey, and imparted a sweetness to the air which afforded our travellers the greatest pleasure. At the next station, the colonel and his nephews lodged in an Armenian convent, where they were handsomely received by the monks; but not so agreeably entertained, as they did not understand the Armenian language. The convent is built of fine hewn stone; and the ruins about it show there has been a considerable town.

The next day, at three in the morning, the colonel and his nephews set off, very impatient to visit the famous town of the Armenians, resorted to with as much devotion by them, as the chapel of Loretto is by Roman Catholics. The Armenians

call the town Etchmiadzin, that is, "the descent of the only Son," because they believe that our Lord appeared to St. Gregory in that place. The colonel and his nephews remained there a few days. The convent is in the form of a long square, built on arcades. The cells and rooms for strangers are all of the same shape, each having a small dome. The patriarch's apartments are distinguished by being better built, and higher; and the gardens are handsome and well kept. The patriarchal church stands in the centre of the great court, and is consecrated to St. Gregory the *Enlightener*, who was the first patriarch under Constantine the Great. It is built of fine hewn stone, the pillars and arches very thick, but the whole is dark and close. Here they keep an arm of this saint, a finger of St. Peter, a rib of St. James, and two fingers of St. John the Baptist. The Armenians have spared no expence to enrich it with the finest manufactures of Europe. The sacred vessels, lamps, and candlesticks, are of silver and gold. The chancel is hung with damask, velvet, and brocade; and the pavement covered with fine carpets. This is the less to be wondered at, because the Armenian merchants, who trade to Europe, are very rich, and make large presents to the church. The monks pride themselves in showing the riches they have received from Rome. According to a tradition which prevails amongst the Armenians, our Saviour himself drew the plan, in the presence

presence of St. Gregory, and commanded him to see the church built conformably to it. Instead of a pencil, they say the Lord made use of a ray of light; in the centre of it the saint was at prayers, upon a large square stone, which is still preserved in the middle of the church.

The country is admirably fine, and full of rivulets, which render it extremely fruitful. It would be difficult, perhaps, to find any other in the world, where so many commodities may be gathered at one time. Besides great quantities of all kinds of grain, there are fields, of a prodigious extent, covered with tobacco. Other parts abound with rice, cotton, flax, melons, and fine vineyards. Nothing is wanting but the olive. The tick-plant is much cultivated by the monks, from which an oil for burning is extracted, that of linseed being employed in culinary purposes. About twelve miles from the convent, the colonel and his nephews went to see the salt pits. They cut the salt into large lumps, as stone is cut in a quarry; and each buffalo carries two of them: for, in the East, buffaloes are amongst the beasts of burden. After rain, the salt lies in crystals on the fields, and crackles under the feet. The water-melons produced in the salt-lands are remarkably fine, and generally eaten like apples by the Armenians.

The colonel was advised by the monks to go to Erivan, the capital of Persian Armenia, about three hours' ride from the convent, where the patriarch

triarch resided; and without whose order they could not procure guides to Mount Ararat. On being presented to him, they kissed his hand, which pleased him very much; for few Franks show him that respect. In requital, he ordered them a frugal treat of nuts, plums, and raisins, and some excellent red wine. After this, they requested to be furnished with good horses and guides, which they would pay for, to conduct them to Mount Ararat. "What business," said he, "have you at Mount Asis?" which is the name this mountain bears among the Armenians. The colonel replied, that "being near a place so celebrated, on which it was supposed Noah's ark had rested, they should be much blamed, on their return home, if they did not go to see it." "You will find it very difficult," said the patriarch, "to go even as far as the snow; and as for the ark, God has never yet favoured any person with a sight of it, except one saint, who was of our order; and after fifty years spent in fasting and prayer, was miraculously carried there; but the excessive cold seized him in such a manner, that he died on his return." After some pause, "what think you," continued he, "of my church at Etchmiadzin? have you any so fine in England?" The colonel answered, that "every country had its peculiar style of building, and that our churches were quite of a different taste." Whilst this venerable prelate gave his orders, they requested to see the chapel, and put a couple of crowns

crowns into the plate to pay for their treat. On their return, they were offered another glass of wine, which they drank, to return thanks to the patriarch. After the usual civilities, he sent one of his servants with them to carry a letter of recommendation to a convent on the road, where they slept. The country is delightful. All kinds of fruit are in great abundance. But the houses are only made of clay dried in the sun, for want of timber.

Our travellers set off the next morning at four o'clock, and continued their journey over a large, fine plain. About eight they reached another convent, built near a well, into which it is affirmed that St. Gregory was thrown, and as miraculously preserved as Daniel in the den of lions. The convent looked like a small fort on the top of a hill, which commands the whole plain; and from this eminence they beheld the river Aras, which runs about twelve miles from the Mount, and falls into the Kur. Here the colonel and his nephews were obliged to repose and refresh themselves; for they had suffered very much in the night from gnats, and the heat in the day time was almost intolerable. In the afternoon they began to ascend, but not without some difficulty, for the whole soil is loose sand, or covered with snow.

Those who occupy the first region, are poor shepherds, with their half-starved flocks; the second region is possessed by tygers and crows; and

and one half of the mountain has been covered with snow, perhaps ever since the ark rested there: and the top is enveloped half the year in very thick clouds. Many of the young tygers are caught in traps and nets, and are afterwards tamed, and led about through the principal towns in Persia. The veneration which all the Armenians have for this mountain is very great; they kiss the ground as soon as they see it, and repeat certain prayers, after having made the sign of the cross. Our travellers encamped near the shepherds' huts, whom they treated with some wine, to make them more familiar, as they wished to inform themselves of the particulars of the mountain. The shepherds advised them, by all means, to return; for if they wished to proceed, they must drink like camels, once in the morning for the whole day, as it would be impossible to carry water, and climb so horrible a mountain: that there was no spring any where; and they might judge what a miserable place it was, from the necessity they were under of digging, from time to time, to find a little water for themselves and their flocks: that they would only see rocks piled upon each other; and "for our parts," said the shepherds, "we would not accompany you for all the treasures of the king of Persia." The insuperable difficulty of the want of water was very material; for they thought it nothing to climb a mountain, though the shepherds represented it so frightful.

frightful. "How vexatious," said the colonel, "to have come so far, and be obliged to return." They consulted the guides, who were unwilling to expose themselves to the danger of dying of thirst; but said that they might go to some rocks, which projected beyond the others, and return at night to their first station. This plan appeared very reasonable, and they retired to rest. At break of day the next morning, they set off towards the first range of rocks, with one bottle of water, which they carried by turns. After wading through sands up to the ancles, and passing under rocks, as through caverns, they came to a very troublesome way, full of stones, where they were forced to leap from one to the other. In short, amongst all these small passages, with which they endeavoured to amuse themselves, and which seemed to afford them fresh vigour, they arrived, about noon, at a more pleasing spot; this was a chalk rock, covered with sharp pieces of stones. Here the guides told them that their boots would be cut to pieces, and that they would certainly be lost, or break their necks in the dark, if they proceeded much farther. They assured their guides that they would only venture as far as a heap of snow, to fill their bottle with, and take a little refreshment. "I think," said the colonel to his nephews, "we must make a virtue of necessity, and return; or expose ourselves to the tygers and famine. The excessive cold may endanger

our

our health: nor is there any probability of our being requited for our trouble. However, during our short repose, I will impart to you what is mentioned concerning this celebrated mountain. Moses informs us, that in the seventh month the ark rested on the Mountain of Ararat, in the year of the world 1656, according to the Hebrew computation. If you recollect, the patriarch at Erivan called it Mount Asis, 'the Happy Mountain,' alluding to the choice which God made of it, as a port for Noah. A learned writer observes, that the name is a compound of Ar-Arat, signifying, 'the Mountain of Descent.' It is also called 'the Finger Mountain,' because it is straight, and stands by itself. The surrounding country was esteemed among the ancients as nearly a central part of the earth; and being very high, must, after the flood, have been the soonest drained of the waters, and consequently the soonest habitable.

"Some writers will not allow that the ark rested in Armenia, because no olive trees grow there at present. Thus we might say, that because there are in these times no balsam in Jericho, nor dates in Babylon, there were none in ancient times. Others have been of opinion, that Noah's ark rested near Apamea, in Phrygia; from whence that city took the surname of *Ark*; and its ancient medals present the figure of an ark. From this it would appear that there was a tradition respecting the ark preserved in that city. I doubt not, that

many

many more such commemorations of an event so greatly affecting mankind, were maintained for many ages, though we are now under great difficulties in tracing them. In fact, many cities boasted of these memorials, and referred to them as proofs of their antiquity, and of their settlement in early ages. We are told that the Emperor Heraclius, who reigned in the seventh century, ascended this mountain, and saw the place of the ark. And now, I think, we had better descend as soon as possible."

The colonel and his nephews were half buried in the sand, by endeavouring to slide down it; however, they determined to get to the edge of the precipice, to have a nearer view, and a tremendous sight it was. The noise made by the vast number of crows, and pieces of the rock which are continually falling; and the numerous waterfalls from the melting of the snow, completed this horrible solitude. At last they observed a place covered with moss, which appeared to favour the descent. Here they laid themselves on their backs, and slid down as far as the way would permit; and whenever they met with any sharp flints, crawled down on all fours. Night coming on, and thirst increasing their speed, by degrees they reached the monastery; but so disordered and fatigued, that they could scarcely move hand or foot. Here another misfortune awaited them; for neither wine nor water was to be procured. They were therefore

fore obliged to send to the river; and what a punishment it must have been to the poor guide, on whom the lot fell, to go and fill their leather bottle, which did not hold above a quart. He had the happiness to be sure to be the first who drank; but no one envied him, for he paid dear enough for it: the descent to the river was near a mile, and the road very rugged. We may imagine his journey back was not very pleasant. It required some time to go and return; and the first bottle was emptied in a moment. The water tasted like nectar; but to wait another half hour for a second bottle was misery enough. At last they procured some wine and bread, and after this light supper, they returned thanks to God for their safe return, and enjoyed a good night's rest. The next morning they hired horses, and went to Erivan.

Erivan, the capital of Persian Armenia, is a considerable city, full of vineyards and gardens, and stands on a hill, at the entrance of one of the finest vales in Persia; which is watered with springs, and covered with country houses. The people of Erivan imagine that their vines are of the same sort as those which Noah planted. The houses are only one story high, built of clay, each standing alone, with a circular or square inclosure, about six feet high. The castle, which stands in the highest part of the town, contains above eight hundred houses, inhabited by Mahommedans, for the most part tradesmen. It is surrounded with a triple

wall,

wall, and is impregnable on the north side, owing to a prodigious precipice, at the bottom of which runs the river. The living in this city is very good; partridges are common, and fruits in abundance. The wine is admirable, but the culture of vines is very difficult, on account of the cold and frosts, which oblige the people not only to cover, but even to bury them at the beginning of winter, where they remain till the spring. The great square is planted with fine trees, and the baths and caravansaries have their beauties; but the mosks have nothing particular. The churches of the Christians are small, and half under ground. By the side of the bishop's palace is an old tower, of a singular construction; but the inhabitants neither know for what use it was designed, nor when it was built. This city was taken by the Persians in 1635, who have remained masters of it ever since. The river Sangin, which runs under the castle, comes from a large lake, about two days' journey and a half from this city. The lake is about seventy miles in circumference, and is well stocked with excellent carp and trout; which, however, are of no great service to the monks, who live on an island in the centre of the lake, as they are only permitted to eat of them four times a year. Nor, indeed, are they suffered to converse together but at those stated periods. The rest of the year they are bound to perpetual silence, and eat nothing but the herbs which their garden produces, and those without

without oil or salt. They are like so many Tantalus's, who have constantly in their view, and within their reach, excellent fruits, which they dare not touch. And notwithstanding this, ambition is not wholly banished from their thoughts; for the Superior is not content with the title of archbishop, but likewise usurps that of patriarch. The governor of the province raises every year about 45,000l. without reckoning what he gains by the pay of the troops appointed to guard the frontiers. He is obliged to inform his court of all the caravans and ambassadors who may pass that way. As soon as an ambassador or envoy has shown the governors of the provinces that he is charged with letters for the king of Persia, they immediately give him an allowance for his daily subsistence, of so many pounds of meat, bread, butter, rice, and a certain number of horses and camels.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

A FEW days' rest, and good living, at Erivan, perfectly restored the colonel and his nephews to their usual vigour and spirits. They therefore hired horses and a guide for an excursion to Ardachat, near which are the ruins of Artaxata; the ancient metropolis of Armenia, and the residence of its kings. This city was built by Artaxias I. about 180 years before the Christian æra, and made the capital of his kingdom, by the advice of the great Hannibal, who fled into Armenia, after the defeat of Antiochus by Scipio Asiaticus. It was seated upon an elbow of the river Araxes, that forms a peninsula, and surrounded the city, except on the side of the isthmus, which was secured by ramparts and a broad ditch. Lucullus, after having defeated the Armenians, would not venture to lay siege to it, because he considered it as impregnable. But in the reign of the Emperor Nero, it was taken by the Roman general, and destroyed. The king afterwards went to Rome, to implore peace of the emperor, who not only replaced the diadem on his head, but likewise permitted him to take workmen from Rome, to rebuild his capital, which he called Neronia, in honour of his benefactor. "This river," said the colonel to his nephews,

nephews, as they were strolling along its banks, "rises in Mount Caucasus, and is rapid, vehement, and, with the melting of the snow, irresistible. You recollect that Virgil styles it the *indignant* river, which would not submit to a bridge; and its indignation is attested by the ruins of many arches of the strongest and most massy bridges, which have been swept away by the current. On its banks have appeared, at different times, the most renowned warriors of antiquity. Augustus built a very solid bridge over it, which withstood, for a long time, the impetuosity of the torrent; it was then styled the *patient* Araxes. In the seventh century it submitted again to the same indignity, when the Emperor Heraclius led his victorious bands into the heart of Persia. Some writers are of opinion, that this river is the Gihon of Genesis. Gihon, in Hebrew, signifies impetuous, rapid, violent; and Araxes, in Greek, implies the *destroyer*. After continuing its course eastward through the province of Media, and thence inclining north-westward, it falls into the Kur, or Cyrus river, which discharges itself into the Caspian Sea."

The ruins of Artaxata did not afford much to engage our travellers' attention: a few columns of black marble, supposed to have been part of the palace, alone remain of its ancient splendour.

As they were returning through the fine cultivated plains, Henry asked his uncle if it was not

supposed

supposed that the garden of Eden was situated in that part of Asia. "It is extremely probable," replied the colonel, "if it is possible, at this late period, to fix the spot where Adam and Eve first appeared on the stage of the world. It is a subject which many learned men have investigated, but without any conclusive evidence. There is hardly any part of the world, in which it has not been sought. The situation of Paradise, in Armenia, where the heads of the Euphrates and Tigris spring; where the head of the Araxes, and a branch of the Phasis, rise not very distant; has many plausibilities in its favour. Nevertheless, there is this to be said against it, that mankind could not journey from the east to Babylon, if Armenia was the seat of Noah's deliverance.

"The situation of Paradise," continued the colonel, "on Mount Caucasus, unites all those requisites which we conceive were necessary to coincide with the Mosaic narration. Four rivers rise adjacently in those mountains; Paradise furnished four rivers. Those mountains are east of Babylonia; mankind travelled from the east to Babylon. But the names of these rivers are utterly unlike those of Moses." "May not that be owing, uncle," said William, "to our ignorance of the language. Perhaps, when their ancient names, or their import, as descriptive appellations, shall be ascertained, this may be reconciled." "But, my dear nephews," resumed the colonel, "since our conquests

conquests in the East Indies, a new source of information has been opened. What think you of Noah's living in the north-west parts of India, about Cashmir; and that part of the present Western Tartary, reaching towards the east as far as the Ganges, was the place of abode of the progenitors of mankind, both before and after the flood? This tradition is of great antiquity, for it is countenanced equally by Persian authors, and by the sacred books of the Hindus.

"Moses says, that after the flood, the people journeyed from the east, till they found a plain in the land of Shinar or Mesopotamia, in which they settled. This surely implies that they came from a very distant country to the eastward of Shinar. That part of the east is the native country of the vine, the olive tree, and of almost all the fruit trees we have in Europe." Our travellers soon reached the convent at Etchmiadzin, where Henry wrote the following letter to his mother.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

IT may be amusing to you to receive some account of two such noted rivers as the Euphrates and the Tigris. They spring from opposite sides of Mount Taurus; the former from the upper level, the latter from the southern declivity; and are only separated by the summits of Taurus. And yet, notwithstanding this vicinity, the sources of the Tigris, by being in a southern exposure, occasion

casion the periodical swellings of this river, to happen many weeks earlier than those of the Euphrates. Continuing its course southward, the Euphrates washes the eastern skirts of Syria, dividing Arabia from Mesopotamia, and separating likewise ancient Chaldea and Babylonia from Mesopotamia; till, mixing with its fellow traveller, the Tigris, at Corna, they fall into the Persian Gulph one hundred miles below that place. It is slow, for the most part, in its course, and not well adapted throughout for navigation. The channel is much choaked up with sand, and some parts are shoal and rocky. However, small boats can navigate it quite down to Bussora.

The water is continually foul, and requires to be passed through a strainer, or suffered to settle for a time, before it is drinkable. Then it is lighter and preferable to any other; whence the river is known in the neighbourhood, by a name implying, "the water of desire." The fish are said to be excellent, particularly a species of carp, that sometimes weighs seventeen or eighteen pounds. The ancient way of navigating the Euphrates has something very singular. The vessels employed were round, without distinction of head or stern, and no better than large wicker baskets, covered with hides and guided by paddles. Some vessels were capable of carrying a cargo of palm-wine, or other merchandise, of the weight of one hundred and forty tons; having, according to their size, a certain

number of asses on board. After descending the river to Babylon, and unloading their cargo, the boatmen sold the vessel, but kept the hides; and loading their asses with them, returned home by land. The Euphrates probably emptied itself formerly into the gulph by a mouth of its own. But as to its primitive state, we are left quite in the dark, by the sacred as well as by the profane writers. The Emperor Hadrian, in compliance with the precept of Augustus, established the Euphrates as the eastern frontier of the Roman empire; by withdrawing the garrisons from the provinces of Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Assyria.

The numerous heads of the Tigris, flowing from Mount Taurus, are collected into one stream in a valley bounded northwards by Mount Niphates, and forces its way through Mount Masius to the southward. It is said to have taken its name from the number of tygers on its banks, as there are two other rivers, rising in Assyria and falling into the Tigris, which seem to borrow their names from a cause of the same name nature: one called the *wolf*, the other the *goat*. Others derive it from a Persian word, importing its rapid course; which is frequently under ground, and it continues hid, at one time, for a space of five and twenty miles. It winds very much, and is filled up with islands and sand-banks. It runs a great way to the eastward towards Persia, and the confluence of the two rivers forms an immense body of fresh water.

water. Its whole course is said to be about one thousand two hundred miles. This celebrated river bathed all the western frontier of the ancient Assyria, and the proud cities of Nineveh, Seleucia, and Ctesiphon, were situated on its banks.

I shall conclude, my dear mother, with giving you some account of the province of Armenia. After the decline of the Roman empire, it was subdued by the Turks, who gave it the name of Turcomania; and it has ever since been subject to them, except the eastern part of it, which belongs to the Persians. It is one of the most healthy and fertile provinces in Asia; it abounds with mountains and valleys, lakes and rivers, so that the climate is temperate, and the soil rich. Besides all sorts of grain, it produces tobacco, cotton, flax, melons, and grapes, and formerly olives. It has also mines of salt, sufficient to supply all Persia. The extreme cold of this country has long been noticed, and ice is often found on the rivulets in the month of July. The inhabitants are sober and industrious, and we have found them a sensible and polite people. By their frugality and enterprise, they are singularly qualified for commercial transactions. Hence they are become, in a great measure, masters of the whole trade of the Levant, and are much concerned in that of other places. Such has been their extensive and established reputation in this respect, that the Car-

dinal Richlieu, we are told, had a design to make a settlement of them in France, for promoting the commerce of that country; and a printing-house at Marseilles was granted to them. The ancient inhabitants were rude and savage, without letters, knowledge, and culture. They could neither build bridges nor construct boats; they had no method of dividing time, and were scarce able to distinguish the succession of the moons. They have a tradition that Noah taught them husbandry, and the planting of vines; that he was their first king; and that, when he quitted Armenia, he left several of his descendants to people the country.

Some have supposed that Christianity was established in Armenia, by the apostle St. Bartholomew; but this is certain, that in the beginning of the fourth century the Armenian Christians were in a flourishing state. Infants of two or three months old are admitted to the communion; and the consecrated bread, steeped in the consecrated wine, is distributed with peculiar ceremonies. When the priest takes the chalice and pattin, he is followed by his deacons and sub-deacons, with flambeaux, and plates of copper furnished with bells: thus he goes in procession, with a censer before him, round the sanctuary; he then places the chalice and pattin on the altar, pronounces the words of consecration, and turns himself to the people, who fall down, kiss the earth, and beat their

their breasts: then, after taking the bread himself, he distributes it to the people. In the baptism of children, they are dipped three times; and then the priest binds a small cord of silk and cotton round the neck of the child, anoints his forehead, stomach, arm-pits, hands, and feet, and makes on each part the sign of the cross. The child, after baptism, is carried home by the godfather with the sound of drums and trumpets. The women do not go to church for forty days after delivery; and they observe many Jewish customs. The Armenians celebrate an annual festival on the sixth of January, called "the manifestation;" but it is not agreed, whether it commemorates the birth of Christ, in his manifestation in the flesh, or his manifestation to the Jews, by the voice from heaven at his baptism. They abstain very rigorously from eating of blood, and meats strangled, and are much addicted to fasting; and the higher the rank of their clergy, so much the greater must be their abstinence. The monks, every Wednesday and Friday, eat neither fish, eggs, nor oil, nor any thing made of milk; and during Lent, they live upon nothing but roots: they are allowed wine only on the Saturday in the Holy Week, and meat on Easter Sunday. Besides the great Lent, they have four or five others of eight days each, preparatory for the four great festivals of the Nativity, the Ascension, the Annunciation, and of St. George, during which they are not allowed so much as to speak of

eggs, flesh, oil, or butter. Adieu, my dear mother, and believe me

Your dutiful and affectionate
HENRY.

Our travellers now proposed returning to Arzroum immediately; but having heard that a party of Curdes had encamped near the road, they waited a few days, till an opportunity offered of joining a caravan of well-armed men, who were appointed to guard a sum of money which the receiver of the customs intended sending to Arzroum. As they approached the river, the guards advised them to be cautious, as it sometimes happened that persons were drowned in fording it; and poor William was in great danger of paying the tribute. The ford is not only dangerous, because of its depth, but besides this, the river brings down, from time to time, large pieces of stone, which roll from the mountains, and cannot be seen at the bottom. The horses consequently often stumble, and even break their legs when they get between these stones. William's horse sunk into a hole, leaving only his head above water, out of which he could not recover himself without a great deal of struggling; during this time William was in a sad condition. The outcries of the guards increased instead of lessening his fear, for he did not understand one word they said to him; and his fellow-travellers could afford him no assistance. At last, however, he

he escaped with only the trouble of drying his clothes; and they arrived safe at Arz-roum. Here they met with their Armenian friend, who had taken charge of their luggage. He asked them a thousand questions concerning what they had seen in their route, and especially the difference they found between Turkey and Persia. After having thanked him for his letter of recommendation to Erivan, they related some of their adventures; and praised very much the good temper of the Persians, and their hospitality to Europeans. "I am very glad," said the Armenian, "that you have been so well pleased; and must now beg you will favour me with your company, to-morrow, to my brother's wedding: an Armenian marriage ceremony may amuse you." The colonel thanked him for his very polite invitation, and he took his leave. The next morning William and Henry arose highly delighted with their promised entertainment; and their friend soon called to conduct them to the house of the bride. On their arrival they met the bridegroom coming out, having on his head a garland of silver. In his right hand he held one end of a girdle, which the bride, who followed on horseback covered with a white veil, held by the other end. This veil hung down quite to the horse's legs. Two men walked by the side of the bride's horse, holding the reins. Their parents and friends, on horseback and on foot, accompanied them in procession, with instruments

of music and lighted tapers. At the church door they alighted, and the young couple walked to the steps of the altar, holding the girdle by the ends all the way they went. Here they stood together, and the priest having laid the Bible on their heads, asked them if they would take one another for husband and wife; and they bowed their heads in token of assent. Then the priest pronounced the sacramental words, performed the ceremony of the ring, and said mass. After this, they returned to the bride's house in the same order they came. The Armenians know nothing of courtship. Marriages are wholly managed according to the pleasure of the mothers, who generally consult only their own husbands. After having agreed upon the articles, the mother of the young man goes to the house where the young woman dwells, accompanied by a priest and two old women, and presents her with a ring in behalf of her son. The young man shows himself at the same time, keeping his gravity as much as possible; for he is not permitted to laugh at the first interview. In fact, this interview is not very interesting; for the fair one, or ugly one, does not so much as show even her eyes, being enveloped in a veil. It is not customary to publish the banns; but the curate who betroths them is treated with wine. The day before the nuptials, the bridegroom sends presents of clothes; and some hours after goes himself, to receive in return. When a young woman loses her mother before marriage,

marriage, generally the next relation takes charge of her wedding. Sometimes the mothers betroth their children at two or three years of age; others agree together, before they are confined, to marry the children, provided the one be a boy and the other a girl. And this is one of the greatest marks of esteem and friendship which persons of any rank can give to one another. They betroth them as soon as they are born, and from that time to the wedding day, the young man, every Easter Sunday, sends his mistress a suit of clothes. The wife, on the wedding night, pulls off her husband's shoes and stockings. The feast lasts three days, but the men do not associate with the women. Formerly the priests could not marry a second time; and at present, if they do, they are not permitted to say mass; as their character appears to suffer by this second union. The bishops prepare holy water but once a year; and this ceremony is called the "baptism of the cross," because on the day of Epiphany they plunge a cross into the water, after having recited different prayers. When this water is prepared, every one fills his bason, and carries it home. A very considerable advantage accrues to the clergy from this ceremony.

Our travellers, after a few days' repose, determined to continue their journey by water; having learnt that the road to Diarbekir was very dangerous and unpleasant, on account of the mountains. They therefore embarked, in a small boat, on the

Euphrates, at a village about two days' journey from Arz-roum. The different windings of the river made the navigation rather difficult; the rocks were rude and barren; and other parts of its banks were covered with a fine species of the barberry tree. The rapidity of the stream soon brought them to the other branch, where they stopped a short time, to partake of a frugal repast. They next came to the mouth of the river Melas, which rises in Cappadocia, and in the evening landed at Malatia. This spot, the colonel told his nephews, was celebrated in history for the decisive battle which the Romans, in the sixth century, gained over Chosroes, king of Persia. A Scythian chief, who commanded their right wing, suddenly turned the flank of the enemy, attacked their rear-guard in the presence of the king, pillaged the royal tent, loaded a train of camels with the spoils, and returned with songs of victory to his friends. The consciousness of his loss determined the king to a speedy retreat: he burnt, in his passage, the town; and without consulting the safety of his troops, boldly swam the Euphrates on the back of an elephant. The next day our travellers arrived at Diarbekir, where William wrote a letter to his father, which will be introduced in the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Diarbekir.*

WE are delighted with the situation of this city, which is the capital of an extensive province of the same name. It is pleasantly situated on an eminence, upon the western banks of the Tigris; and commands a charming prospect over a fertile country: and the winding of the Tigris adds much to the beauty of the scene. It is well watered, by means of a canal, which is cut several miles above.

It is computed that there are resident in this city no less than 20,000 Christian inhabitants; and perhaps it is owing to this mixture that the fair sex have more freedom, and the men more politeness and affability, than those of any other city in the empire. The houses of the rich merchants are large and handsome, ornamented with gardens and fountains. They are square built, of hewn stone, and insulated, each having a terrace, or flat roof, on which the inhabitants sleep in the summer, during the great heats. The doors are low and narrow, to prevent the introduction of a crowd in any popular commotion. The Turkish women, when in public, wear a blue, striped veil, which reaches to the feet; and the

Christian women wear a white one: this is the distinction. The population, in the last century, is said to have amounted to 400,000; but in the year 1757, a swarm of locusts caused a terrible famine, by devastating the whole country; the consequence was a raging epidemic disorder, which carried off three-fourths of the inhabitants.

Many of the public edifices which we have seen are very elegant. The Armenian cathedral is a large and handsome structure, about the length of Westminster-Hall, but not so wide. The roof is supported by two rows of pillars, and the whole of the floor is covered with carpets. The Armenians have their crucifixes and burning lamps, like the Roman Catholics. It is no wonder that the Turks should entertain such a prejudice against the Christian religion, when you consider that all the Christian countries bordering on the Turkish empire, have their crucifixes and images, which represent a kind of idol worship, to which all Mussulmans have a particular aversion. This alone is sufficient to prevent them from making any enquiries into the real merits of Christianity. In the court before the cathedral is a very handsome fountain, which throws its water to a considerable height.

We have visited the manufactories, of which there are great numbers. They manufacture copper, iron, wool, cotton, silk, and several other staples. Great quantities of gall-nuts and madder, for

for dying, are annually imported. People of the same trade usually live together; thus, one street contains only weavers, who are numerous; another street shoe-makers, &c. Their leather manufactory is carried to great perfection. They entertain a very high opinion of the British manufactures; and our superfine broad cloth is worn by the principal people.

The city has two gates to the westward, which are the only ones ever opened, and covers about a square mile. Above the walls, on the east side, is a path cut through the rock; the lofty trees, forming an agreeable shade, and making it a pleasant, cool retreat. We saw, as we strolled along this path, many Armenian women and children bathing. They walk extremely well; their loose dress allowing free action to the body.

Although Diarbekir is a populous city, provisions plentiful, good, and cheap; every inhabitant enjoying full liberty; and that it is, in many other respects, a desirable place to live in; yet there is one thing which reflects great disgrace on its government: the surrounding country, to a considerable extent, is so infested with banditti, that no one can travel to or from the city without a strong military guard. Every one carries arms; even the poorer class wear a creese, the blade of which is usually near three feet long. Those who can afford to purchase more costly articles, wear a dagger and a brace of pistols. The handle of the dagger

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is either ivory or silver, and the pistol-stocks are mostly covered with silver.

This ancient city was honoured by the Emperor Constantius with his own name. He fortified it with strong walls and seventy lofty towers, in commemoration, it is said, of the seventy disciples. In the year 359, it was invested by the arms of Sapor, king of Persia. The siege lasted seventy-three days, and thirty thousand of the finest of the Persian troops fell in the conflict. In the year 505 it was restored to the Romans, on condition of their paying to the king of Persia the sum of fifty talents. It was taken by the Turks, in the eleventh century, among their other conquests. Adieu, my dear father, and believe me

Your dutiful

WILLIAM.

The colonel and his nephews, on their leaving Diarbekir, forded the Tigris, and continued their journey through a fine, level, well-cultivated country. They found the air sensibly warmer, and the manners of the people more rude and unpolished. The country women only speak the Curde language, which is a corrupt dialect of the Persian. Their head-dress resembles a high, round mitre, ornamented with rings of brass, linked together, and fastened under the chin: this is covered with a white cloth, and bound with a shawl round the

the forehead. They wear a loose gown, with short, wide sleeves, tied round the waist by a sash. They go without stockings; but have yellow slippers. They spin with a rock and spindle; and appear to be a happy people, and all diligently employed.

Our travellers passed a great number of small sheds, made of the branches of trees, having the door-ways towards the north. The people live in these, in the summer, in preference to houses. The colonel and his nephews stopped to dine in one of these sheds, where they found a party of Turkish horse stationed. The valley of Diarbekir is about one hundred and forty miles in length, and very wide, forming a great oval; and may not improperly be named the *hollow* Mesopotamia. The term Mesopotamia, as applied to the tract between the Euphrates and Tigris, is thought not to have been in use amongst the Greeks till after the Macedonian conquest. The bottoms of the hills are cultivated wherever there is water. The Curde women labour in the fields as well as the men. They have cattle and horses in abundance; very few sheep; but a great number of goats.

During their journey, the colonel and his nephews forded a river, on whose banks were a great many tents, belonging to numerous gangs of banditti who infest the country. After crossing a lofty chain of mountains, they began to ascend the mountain on which Mardin is built. Though

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it is very steep and rocky, every piece of ground capable of cultivation, bore proofs of the industry of the inhabitants, in abundance of fruits, and almost all kinds of vegetables.

Mardin is a city of considerable size, and very populous. It is surrounded by a strong and lofty wall, built with hewn stone; and on the summit of the mountain is a strong fort. The streets run east and west, and have steps communicating from one to another. The bases of the houses in the upper street, are even with the tops of the houses in the street below. The city is well supplied with water, and of good quality. The greater part of of the inhabitants are Armenians, who carry on several manufactories. Our travellers found them a hospitable, well-disposed people. They enjoy a pure air; and, in general, appear ruddy and healthy. Many of the women are very beautiful. Provisions are plentiful, good, and cheap: they have also most kinds of fruits, and of the finest quality. The prunes are in such high estimation, that an officer is sent every year from Constantinople, to make a provision of them for the table of the grand signor.

The colonel and his nephews, after descending the mountain from Mardin, turned off a few miles to the westward, to visit the ruins of Dara. They found much cultivation, and fine pasture, in the vale. The hot winds began to collect, but had not acquired strength enough to be dangerous: they

they never prevail in elevated situations; and whenever they shape their course towards mountains, they soon subside. The first object of our travellers' attention were the magnificent ruins of an ancient palace: some parts of the building are still of a great height. They rode into the inner square, where they found some Curdes drawing water from a well about forty feet deep. The walls of the building are of astonishing thickness; and a stone staircase remains almost entire. The the country is finely cultivated, a chain of lofty mountains ranging east and west, having their sides covered with fir-trees. About twelve miles distant from the first ruins is another heap, among which a very lofty arch remains entire.

"This must have been a noted city formerly," said Henry to his uncle. "It was," replied the colonel, "and sustained a memorable siege against the Persians, after exciting their jealousy for more than sixty years. Anastasius I. Emperor of the East, fortified it with two walls, and the interval between them afforded a retreat to the cattle of the besieged. The height of the towers was one hundred feet. The soldiers were ranged along the rampart, under the shelter of double galleries. The ditches were filled with water; and in the management of the river, the most skilful labour was employed to supply the inhabitants, to distress the besiegers, and to prevent the mischiefs of a natural or artificial inundation. However,

However, in the seventh century, they reduced and destroyed it, together with Mardin and Diarbekir."

In the evening our travellers arrived at Nisibis, and whilst supper was preparing the colonel gave his nephews an account of the siege of that city.

For four hundred years it had been deservedly esteemed the bulwark of the East. About the middle of the fourth century, it sustained three memorable sieges against the Persians, in the space of twelve years: and the disappointed monarch, after urging his attacks above sixty, eighty, and a hundred days, was thrice repulsed, with loss and ignominy. A treble inclosure of brick walls was defended by a deep ditch; and the intrepid resistance of the garrison was seconded by the desperate courage of the inhabitants. The citizens were animated by the exhortations of their bishop; inured to arms by the presence of danger; and convinced of the intentions of the Persian monarch to plant a colony in their room, and to lead them away into distant and barbarous captivity. The event of the two former sieges elated their confidence, and exasperated the haughty spirit of the Great King, who advanced a third time towards Nisibis, at the head of the united forces of Persia and India. The ordinary machines, invented to batter or undermine the walls, were rendered ineffectual by the superior skill of the Romans; and many days had vainly elapsed, when Sapor embraced

braced a resolution worthy of an eastern monarch, who believed that the elements themselves were subject to his power. At the stated season of the melting of the snows, the river Mygdonius, which divides the plain and the city of Nisibis, forms, like the Nile, an inundation over the adjacent country. By the labour of the Persians, the course of the river was stopped below the town, and the waters were confined on every side by solid mounds of earth. On this artificial lake, a fleet of armed vessels, filled with soldiers, and with engines which discharged stones of five hundred pounds weight, advanced in order of battle, and engaged, almost upon a level, the troops which defended the ramparts. The irresistible force of the waters was alternately fatal to the contending parties, till at length a portion of the walls, unable to sustain the accumulated pressure, gave way at once, and exposed an ample breach of one hundred and fifty feet. The Persians were instantly driven to the assault, and the fate of Nisibis depended on the event of the day. The heavy-armed cavalry were embarrassed in the mud, and great numbers were drowned in the unseen holes, which had been filled by the washing waters. The elephants, made furious by their wounds, increased the disorder, and trampled down thousands of the Persian archers. The Great King, who from an exalted throne beheld the misfortunes of his arms, sounded, with reluctant indignation, the signal of retreat, and

and suspended, for some hours, the prosecution of the attack. Notwithstanding the disappointment of his hopes, and the loss of more than twenty thousand men, Sapor still pressed the reduction of Nisibis, with an obstinate firmness, when he was suddenly alarmed with the intelligence of a formidable invasion of the Scythians, on the eastern provinces of Persia. He hastily relinquished the siege, and marched, with a rapid diligence, from the banks of the Tigris to those of the Oxus, which separates Tartary from Persia; and soon after concluded a truce with the Romans. About thirteen years afterwards, peace was signed; by the articles of which, Nisibis was ceded to the king of Persia, together with five provinces beyond the Tigris. An eye-witness has delineated, in lively colours, the scene of universal despair which seized the inhabitants, when the edict was published for evacuating the city. "The martial youth deserted, with indignant grief, the walls which they had so gloriously defended; the disconsolate mourner dropped a last tear over the tomb of a son or husband, which must soon be profaned by the rude hand of a Barbarian master; and the aged citizen kissed the threshold, and clung to the doors, of the house where he had passed the cheerful and careless hours of infancy. The highways were crowded with a trembling multitude. The distinctions of rank, and sex, and age, were lost in the general calamity. Every

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one strove to bear away some fragment from the wreck of his fortunes; and as they could not command the immediate service of an adequate number of horses or waggons, they were obliged to leave behind them the greatest part of their valuable effects." They were seated, however, in a new-built quarter of Amida; and that rising city, with the reinforcement of a very considerable colony, soon recovered its former splendour, and became the capital of Mesopotamia. This ignominious peace has justly been considered as a memorable æra in the decline and fall of the Roman empire. Formerly the Roman Emperors had sometimes relinquished the dominion of distant and unprofitable provinces; but, since the foundation of the city, the Genius of Rome, who guarded the boundaries of the republic, had never retired before the sword of a victorious enemy. Nisibis is now reduced to one hundred and fifty houses. The marshy lands produce rice; and the fertile meadows, as far as Mosul and the Tigris, are covered with the ruins of towns and villages.

The next day, the colonel and his nephews proceeded on their march across extensive plains, where the Arabs were reaping the corn. When it is cut, they tie it up in bundles, and throw them into a large sack, which is carried home on horseback. They have two singular customs of asking charity. Whenever a reaper perceives any passengers coming, he throws a bundle of corn in the middle

middle of the road, to intimate that a trifling gift is expected: another spreads his cloak on the ground, to receive whatever may be thrown into it. They never speak, nor appear dissatisfied, if they do not find their wishes complied with. After passing different villages, inhabited by Curdes and Arabs, they arrived at the camp of a Curde chief, who invited them to dinner. It consisted of a large plate of rice, with four others of meat, dressed in different ways. The Curdes and Arabs eat their rice with a wooden spoon; but the Turks take it up in their hands, and, after rolling it into a ball and dipping it in gravy, swallow it. A Turk, when he wishes to show any particular mark of attention to his guest, always prepares for him a certain number of these rice-balls. The beverage at dinner was whey; and after, coffee was presented. The Curdes always encamp near water: the chieftain's tent is pitched in the centre, and is the largest and most commodious. Towards the quarter from which the wind mostly blows, is a wall, about five feet high, to inclose the area occupied by the tent. As each family possesses a greater or smaller number of cattle, every tent is separate, that on their return, in the evening, from grazing, the herds may be driven into the respective areas. They are then milked, and the butter churned. The Curdes drink the whey; and in the morning the cattle return to pasture. The women spin and weave wool for clothing: the most active of the men are always ready booted,

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for mounting. Their arms are a lance, or a club, plated with iron. Their horses are very swift, and remain saddled from morning till night. They are tethered on the outside of the tent, having their four legs tied with a rope. Thus the Curdes maintain a great number of horses, constantly ready, either for rapine or for security; in case one tribe has any dispute or dissention with another.

The winter dress of the men is a pellise, made of sheep skins, and dyed red. Among the women, there is but little difference; they wear a ring through the nose, bracelets on the arms, and rings on the fingers; and paint their arms with different emblems. They live temperately. The women bake cakes twice a day, which are distributed, one by one, to each person, both morning and evening. The features of these women are handsomer than those of the Arabs; and they are nearly as fair as the women in England.

The colonel and his nephews passed some fine streams of water, on the banks of one of which are the ruins of a city, that appears to have been once very extensive. About this unfrequented place no living creatures are to be seen, except wild hogs, a few wolves, and some eagles; the latter very tame. They bathed in the rivulet, where they pitched their tent, and found it very refreshing; and always washed their heads with cold water, whenever there was an opportunity. One morning, our travellers came to some rivulets,

lets, whose banks were covered with grass and rushes, growing very thick and long. Amongst them were several wild hogs, which rushed out and ran across the plain; except one that attempted to hide himself in the rushes. The Arabs, with their long spears, soon found him out. This was a new scene of diversion to William and Henry. The wild hog attempted to run across the plain after the others; but our travellers pursued closely and turned him. After he had been wounded two or three times by the Arabs, he became exceedingly furious. He foamed at the mouth, and snatched at the colonel's horse, by which he was very near being dismounted. Such an accident might have proved fatal, as the hog would shortly have destroyed the colonel, while on the ground. He soon, however, became weak, through loss of blood; the Arabs then closed upon him, and speared him till he fell.

Continuing their journey, William and Henry amused themselves with catching locusts, which are of an extraordinary size. They have no wings, move slowly, and are easily taken. The colonel dissected one, and on examining one of its grinders, found it nearly as large as a human tooth. During the excessive heat of the summer, these large locusts, by being exposed to the sun, soon die. Flies likewise, when exposed in the middle of the day, fall down almost instantly. The colonel and his nephews soon joined a large caravan going

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to Mosul, which formed a continued line of six miles. It consisted of about two thousand camels, three thousand asses and mules, and one thousand horses; the whole being conducted by an Arab chief, with a considerable number of guards. The chief was under great apprehensions that he should be attacked, and kept fifty horsemen ready to mount in a moment, and sent others some miles round as a patrole. Every one was armed with some sort of weapon, and one of the Tartars carried a bow and quiver, slung over his shoulder. Many of the horsemen exercised with their spears, which was a fine sight to our travellers. The officer wore a scarlet gown, and the soldiers were dressed in white, with scarlet caps and turbans.

After passing through some very steep and narrow defiles, the colonel and his nephews stopped to refresh at a village on the banks of the Tigris. As they approached Mosul, they remarked that the country was well cultivated, producing great quantities of corn; and nearly the whole of the way they saw ruins on both sides of the river, some at a considerable distance, and others close on the banks. At last the pointed turrets of Mosul opened to their view; and immediately on their arrival, they went to bathe in the Hummums, which was a great refreshment after a long journey.

CHAP. XIV.

AFTER some days' stay at Mosul, William communicated to his mother his remarks on the city in the following letter:

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Mosul.*

THIS city is pleasantly situated on a declivity, upon the western banks of the Tigris. It is very large, and contains many ancient buildings, which are all of hewn stone. It comprises many of various religions; but the great bulk of the inhabitants are Curdes, or, as the Arabs call them, Kurks. The bazar is large and well supplied; and most of the articles, except clothing, are very moderate. Various manufactories are carried on, and in some they excel the Europeans. Their saddles and trappings for horses are particularly elegant. They also make carpets of silk, with flowers worked in them, which seem to vie with the best of our manufactures. They are also very dexterous in making edgings and trimmings of various kinds, both for men and women. Their manufactories in copper and iron are numerous; and a great variety of articles made of those metals are sent down the Tigris to Bussora, exclusive of the immense quantities of metal sent down unmanufactured;

manufactured; for they get the ore from the mountains to the northward.

The streets are narrow, unpaved, and full of dust; and the heat is so intense, that in the middle of the day no one can stir out: and even at night the walls of the houses, which are mostly separate, are so heated by the day's sun, as to produce a disagreeable heat to the body, at a short distance from thence. In the centre of the city stands a mosk, with a leaning tower, similar to the famous one in Pisa, but not of the same style of architecture and elegance. It is said, by religious bigots, that on Mahommed's entering the city, the tower bowed itself, of course out of respect to the prophet. We are told that muslins received their name from this city; it having been, formerly, the great mart from whence Europeans drew that Indian manufacture. German and Spanish dollars, and Venetian sequins, are very current here.

Mosul imports from Aleppo woollen cloths, paper, glass, iron utensils, and drugs; and from Bussora, sugar and spices. The province of Curdistan, part of the ancient Assyria, furnishes this city with tobacco, grapes, raisins, wine, various fruits, honey, wax, and manna. The rafters, used by merchants to convey goods down the Tigris to Bagdad, are of a singular construction. They are composed of two, and even three hundred goat-skins, filled with air, and tied together in rows. On the skins are laid thick bundles of

twigs, fastened down by two poles, placed cross-ways. To preserve the goods from any damage by water, the whole rafter is covered with faggots of willow branches, about a yard in height, with spaces between them, that the boatmen may constantly inspect the skins. If any one loses its air, it must be refilled; and others, which become dry, must be watered, in case they should burst. A rafter of this construction will carry from forty to fifty thousand pounds weight.

Stout vessels, some upwards of two hundred tons burden, are also used on the Tigris, to carry fire-wood down to Bagdad. They are built of very coarse materials, and covered with a thick coat of bitumen. The lofty head is generally ornamented with a variety of shells, stuck into the bitumen. The rudder is composed of a great quantity of rough timbers, very aukwardly put together, and is guided by a tiller. They form, altogether, a very uncouth specimen of naval architecture, and require twenty, and sometimes thirty men to track them.

Superstition and prejudice are carried to such a length amongst these people, that it would be not only useless, but dangerous to attempt any innovation. Should a man, convinced of a defect in any branch of trade, offer to adopt an improvement, complaint would soon be made to the mufti, and the artist, probably, pay for his temerity with his life. Children invariably follow the trade of

of their forefathers; and it would be reckoned very profane to deviate from the custom of their ancestors.

These people have continued, from the earliest period, to speak the same language, wear the same dress, and eat and drink in the same manner. Their mode of warfare is still the same; and scarcely the slightest deviation has taken place in their manners and customs, prejudices and passions: though almost every other nation has undergone a thorough revolution within a few centuries.

You know, my dear mother, that the province of Mesopotamia has been famed in history, from the first ages of the world, as the dwelling of men after the deluge. The Hebrews call it Aram of the Rivers, because it was first peopled by Aram, father of the Syrians. It also gave birth to many illustrious characters; particularly Terah, Abraham, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah, and to the sons of Jacob. Here Laban dwelt, to whom Jacob fled, and whom he served fourteen years, for the love he bore to Rachel. The plains of Shinar were in this country. Babylon was in the ancient Mesopotamia, till, by vast labour and industry, the Tigris and Euphrates were united in one channel. Balaam, son of Beor, was of Mesopotamia. As the term signifies simply a country lying between two rivers, so this name may be given to any country in such a situation, whatever rivers

inclose it. Haran, or Chanan, to which Abraham, first retreated after he left Ur, was situated between the Euphrates and the river Chebar, towards Syria. Perhaps it took its name from the eldest son of Terah, and brother to Abraham and Nahor. Haran died before his father; a circumstance which had not occurred among mankind till this time. The people of Chanan are said to have adored the moon, under the name and habit of a god; and in the worship which they paid to this deity, the men wore the habit of women, and the women that of men. You may, perhaps, be surprised to find the moon considered as masculine; but this was extremely common among the ancients. However, you must observe, that a much fiercer character was anciently attributed to the moon, than is customary among modern bards, who sing her praise as "the gentle goddess." We find that idolatry was early practised in Mesopotamia; for Rachel stole the images that were her father's, and put them in the camel's furniture. Haran is said to have been smitten by God, as a punishment to his father, Terah, who had forged new gods. The rabbins tell us, that Haran was accused by his father, for refusing to adore the deity, fire, and was condemned to be cast into a burning furnace; where he was consumed in the presence of his father.

As my brother proposes writing to Sibella, I shall

shall close my letter with best wishes for your health and happiness, and believe me, dear mother,

Your dutiful son,

WILLIAM.

Henry's letter to his sister being sent by the same conveyance, we shall here subjoin it.

MY DEAR SIBELLA, *Mosul.*

ONE of the Roman Catholic missionaries being on the eve of his departure for Europe, and having promised to take charge of our letters, I seize the opportunity of addressing you. What a fund of knowledge and information we shall acquire from this tour. It will be a constant source of rational happiness to our future years.

"We travel and expatiate: as the bee
From flow'r to flow'r, so we from land to land.
The customs, manners, policy, of all
Pay contribution to the store we glean.
We gain intelligenee in ev'ry clime,
And at our return—we'll spread the honey
Of our deep research—a rich repast for thee."

To travel in this barbarous country, one must forget Europe. Here we find neither inns, post-chaises, nor obliging landlords. One must accommodate one's self to every thing, and become a man of all countries. It is difficult to make these people conceive how persons can be induced to

visit them from curiosity alone, and how they can travel merely for the sake of pleasure. They are, besides, much inclined to suspect strangers of some treacherous design. They hate Christians from a principle of religion, and from the prejudice of education; but at present without knowing the reason. Their ancestors, however, knew it well. The most unjust wars, to which fanaticism gave the name of *holy*, carried on in the East, incensed against us whole nations, who only followed the religion of Mahommed, whilst we followed that of Jesus. The name of *Christian* has always continued to be execrated in all the different countries of the Levant. In passing from one generation to another, the cause has been forgotten, but the hatred has remained. It is thus that we pay, at present, for the faults committed by our ancestors some centuries ago. We have often regretted that this country, where the patriarchs of old breathed the pure air of piety and simplicity, should now be consigned to a horde of senseless bigots and inflexible tyrants.

On seeing women come to the wells, we have been reminded of the amiable Rebecca, and her conduct towards Abraham's servant: "Drink, my lord, and I will draw water for thy camels also." How different from the Samaritan woman, who, adopting the prejudice of country, divested herself of pity, the most delightful property of her sex! and with a petulence of reply, exciting almost

most every sentiment, sooner than that of compassion, she (to the most sacred character, weary, and fainting under the mid-day's oppressive heat) dared thus to open her mouth: "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, who am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans!"

The once illustrious city of Nisibis is now sunk into a despicable village, though it has a pleasing effect at a distance; being seated on a considerable eminence, at the foot of which runs the river Mygdonius. In the year 1757, it suffered grievously by famine. The streets presented many miserable objects, who greedily devoured rinds of cucumbers, and every refuse article of food they could pick up. To the eye of ignorance, the ruins of cities present nothing but broken stones; but, to the philosophic observer, they recal the remembrance of those who reared them. They are only, it is true, like the remains of a skeleton; but this skelteon still announces the strength and power of the body which it supported. They show that an enlightened and polished people cultivated the arts and sciences, in regions now inhabited by brutality and ignorance. What the barbarian treads under foot with indifference, we contemplate and admire; as emphatical and affecting lessons on the shortness of life, and the fleeting glory of the proudest empires.

We were very much alarmed, one morning, on

perceiving, near a village, several ragged, miserable wretches pursuing us, and throwing stones after us. You may imagine that we increased our horses' speed, to get out of sight as fast as possible. When we had recovered our fears, our Greek servant told us, that they were a particular set of men, who, by affecting extraordinary sanctity, are called *Santouse*. They pretend to be insane, which, with the Turks, is the greatest mark of sanctity; and, under cover of this madness, commit every excess and enormity, not merely with impunity, but with applause. They live solitary lives, sometimes under ground, and sometimes in the thickets. They go where they please, take the best seat in any man's house, and eat and drink as much as they like.

I shall conclude, my dear sister, with giving you an account of our visit to the plain of Nineveh.

We crossed the Tigris by a bridge of boats, fastened to some old stone piers. The constant passage of camels, asses, mules, horses, and men, detained us more than half an hour. We soon arrived at the plain, where a very decisive victory was gained by the Romans over the Persians, in the seventh century. On that memorable day, the Roman emperor, Heraclius, surpassed the bravest of his warriors. In the heat of the action, three valiant chiefs were successively slain by the sword and lance of the emperor; among them was the general. His armour of pure and massy gold, the

the shield of one hundred and twenty plates, the sword and belt, the saddle and cuirass, adorned the triumph of Heraclius. Twenty-eight standards were taken from the Persians; the greatest part of their army was cut in pieces; and the victors, concealing their own loss, passed the night on the field. The diligence of Heraclius was not less admirable in the use of victory. By a march of four and twenty hours, the cities and palaces of Assyria were open, for the first time, to the Romans. They penetrated to the royal city. Whatever could not easily be transported, they consumed with fire; and national hatred, military licence, and religious zeal, wasted, with equal rage, the habitations and the temples of the guiltless subject. The return of the emperor to Constantinople, was a perpetual triumph. The senate, the clergy, and the people, went forth to meet their hero, with acclamations, with olive branches, and innumerable lamps; and he entered the capital in a chariot drawn by four elephants.

The only traces of Nineveh are mounds of earth, and heaps which indicate the rubbish of buildings. It must be owned, that it was one of the most ancient, the most famous, the most potent, and the largest cities of the world. Profane histories tell us, that Ninus first founded Nineveh; but Scripture, which is infinitely better authority, assures us it was Ashur, son of Shem; or Nimrod, son of Cush. It is very difficult to assign the time

its foundation; but it cannot be long after the building of Babel. Its name in Hebrew implies, *handsome, agreeable dwelling*. The prophets Naham and Zephaniah foretold its ruin, in a particular and pathetic manner. You recollect what Jonah did at Nineveh; and the signal repentance of the Ninevites. How aptly the gourd represented Nineveh! It was a time in coming to perfection, and it was a time in a perfect state: so Nineveh was, ere it was mistress of the countries around it, and it held that dignity for a time. But at last, the worm of insurrection and rebellion smote the city, and the king of Nineveh burnt himself, &c. in his palace: a fate very aptly prefigured by the gourd struck by the worm, and shrivelled by subsequent heat!

At the time of Jonah's mission thither, it contained more than six score thousand persons that could not discern between their right hand and their left; which is generally explained of young children, who had not yet attained the use of reason. The first city of Nineveh was probably destroyed in the seventh century before Christ. It appears remarkable that Xenophon, whose fifth encampment must have been near to, or on its site; and Alexander, who passed so near it, in his way to the field of Arbela; should neither of them have taken any notice of its remains. It was entirely ruined during the reign of the emperor Hadrian. However, it was rebuilt under the Persians;

sians; but was destroyed by the Saracens, about the seventh century.

The mountains between the Tigris and Euphrates produce quicksilver. Some years ago, a countryman of ours procured two or three bottles of it, which he presented to the basha; but the Turks have neither skill nor inclination to work mines. The Armenians send great quantities of copper down the Tigris to Bagdad, upon rafts of timber fastened together. On their arrival, the rafts are sold, wood being very scarce there. The copper is afterwards shipped for Bussora. It is in small round cakes, about six inches broad, and nearly two inches thick in the middle, but gradually sloping to the edges. This trade is increasing to a very great extent; and is very profitable to those at present concerned in it.

Adieu, my dear Sibella; we shall soon proceed to Bagdad.

Your affectionate

HENRY.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

THE colonel and his nephews, intending to descend the river to Bagdad, hired a kiellek. This is a kind of rafter made of skins fastened together with ropes. Upon these is laid a hurdle of poles tied together with withies. Bundles of poles, about half a foot thick, and two feet and a half distant from each other, are next laid on the rafter. Across from one to the other are placed poles, and upon these goods are loaded, and the passengers shift as well as they can. But as the colonel's kiellek was only for his own use, he had a covering erected, made of branches of the liquorice tree, and a few boards laid at bottom. The kiellek consisted of twenty skins in length, and thirteen in breadth, and each skin costs a piastre. There is neither rudder nor sail, and the whole crew consists of three watermen; two of them to row, and the third wets the skins. They require very little management, as they float down the current very rapidly.

Our travellers having embarked on board their curious rafter, they soon had an opportunity of admiring the dexterity of the country people in crossing the river. A large drove of buffaloes, driven by

by a naked boy, took the water and began swimming. The boy stood upright upon the last, and stepping from one to the other, drove them on with a stick; and that with as much indifference as if he had been on land. The Tigris is very winding, and full of small islands and sand banks. Our travellers stopped at a village, where they found sulphureous hot baths, which are much frequented by the country people. As they proceeded they were often visited by the Arabs, who always watch the arrival of a kiellek to demand some tobacco. Each carries a skin, which, when filled with air, serves to swim the river. Our travellers soon reached the mouth of the Zab, which is a large river flowing from the mountains of Armenia. It runs very rapidly into the Tigris, and the water is whitish and very cold. Having passed this spot, they saw to the left woods which were said to be full of lions, wild boars, &c. They rowed on till sun-set, not knowing where to stop, because they would not venture ashore where the lions were; and on the other side Arab tents were pitched: at last they stopped near a wood of tamarind and liquorice trees. About midnight three Arabs approached, with a design of plundering; but finding themselves discovered, they dived into the water and disappeared. They have, besides, the cunning art of putting branches of trees over their heads, that they may not be thought to be men swimming.

Tikrit,

Tikrit, the next station, is said to be half way between Mosul and Bagdad. It is a small town, built on an eminence, because of the overflowing of the Tigris. From hence the river takes a direct course, and increases in size. Our travellers observed some tombs of different Arab chiefs, and many ruins of houses, which are called "ancient Bagdad," formerly the residence of the Caliphs. Here they stopped because the wind was high; and were forced to keep guard against the Arabs and the lions, whose roaring they heard every minute, as well as the noise of the karacoulaks, and the barking of the Arab dogs. The karacoulaks are somewhat larger than cats, and much of the same shape; they have long black ears, and from thence take their name. The Arabs call them the lion's caterers; for they are the guides to lead them to those places where there is prey, and have a share for their reward. The boatmen told the colonel and his nephews many stories of lions carrying away persons from the kielleks, without being perceived. Because, when a lion swims, he hides all his body under water except the nose, and comes so softly that he is not heard; and when on shore he snatches up a man, and, jumping into the water with him, swims over to the other side.

At the next village the colonel sent one of the boatmen on shore, who soon returned with a large quantity of fine grapes, melons, and cucumbers. As they proceeded, the river opened grand and majestic

majestic to view. Many boats were lying in shore, which serve to carry corn to Bagdad from the neighbouring villages. Plantations of date trees, and fields sown with millet every where appeared. Buffaloes, camels, oxen, and domestic animals, constitute the riches of the Arabs and Curdes who live on the banks of the Tigris. About midnight the colonel and his nephews arrived at Bagdad, and were conducted to the house of an Armenian, to whom they had letters of introduction and credit. When the rainy season begins in Armenia, the waters of the Tigris increase. In the months of July, August, September, and October, the river gradually falls; and is usually at the lowest about Christmas.

After the colonel and his nephews had amused themselves, for several days, in inspecting different parts of the city, an opportunity offered of forwarding letters to England, which William availed himself of to write to his father.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Bagdad.*

WE have had a very pleasant passage down the Tigris; for the current being very rapid, and the wind mostly fresh and fair, we came down at a great rate. This is much safer than going up the river, for in that case, being obliged to track against the stream, passengers are more liable to the depredations of the Arabs; who often lay very heavy contributions on vessels and passengers, or plunder them

them when they do not submit to their impositions. We have been much amused with the Arab manner of crossing the river. In swimming they greatly assist themselves by a goat's-skin, blown like a bladder, which they hold under their breast with one hand, while they push forward with the other and their feet. Their clothes, and sometimes their fire-arms, they fasten on the top of the head, and carry them over perfectly dry.

Our landlord does every thing in his power to render the place agreeable to us. He is not only generous and polite, but well informed. My uncle one evening expressed to him the disappointment he felt, at finding this city so very different from what he expected; and told him that he had, when a youth, learned to think even romantically of it, from reading eastern tales. This led to a conversation on the Arabian Nights Entertainments, a copy of which he had in Arabic, and produced it. We talked of the glass-man who, in kicking his wife, kicks down his basket, and destroys the whole of his visionary fortune. "Gentlemen," said he, "there is nothing in it that may not be experienced frequently in actual life; those workings of the imagination are the usual concomitants of opium. A man who has accustomed himself to the pernicious practice of eating opium is constantly subject to them. I have met with many of those dreamers, holding forth in the plenitude of imaginary power. I have seen a common porter become judge, and order the bastinado.

I have

I have seen a wretched tailor raised, by the effect of opium, to the office of aga of the janissaries, deposing the sultan, and ordering the bowstring to all around him. But the most extraordinary visionary I ever met with, was one who imagined himself translated to Paradise, and sitting by the side of Mahommed, arguing with him in defence of the use of wine and opium. He argued most ingeniously, till growing at last angry, he swore that he was as good a prophet as Mahommed, and called him fool and impostor. A Turk who was present, in the fulness of zeal, laid a stick very heavily across his shoulders, and put an end to the vision. Never did I see a wretch so abject, or so miserably desponding; he put his forehead to the ground, which he wet with his tears, crying, 'mercy, Mahommed! mercy, holy prophet!' nor could he find relief till he had a fresh supply of opium in his mouth, which soon gave him a temporary respite from the horrors of his situation."

Bagdad is a large and populous city, extending along the banks of the river about three miles. Many of the public buildings are constructed of hewn stone, and make a very handsome appearance. But the streets are very narrow and dusty, and every house looks like a prison; they are in general of brick, and the timbers very good, being those which are floated down the Tigris. The walls are also of brick, with terraces of large towers in form of bastions, and defended by about sixty pieces

pieces of cannon. The castle is large, and the garrison very strong. Here are many cranes, much larger, and very different from any in Europe. They build their nests upon the tops of the minarets and the loftiest houses, where they are never molested. Scorpions, tarantulas, and other noxious insects are very numerous; consequently the inhabitants, to avoid them, are forced to keep their markets in the night, and sleep on the terraces of their houses. Without the walls, to the west and north, is entirely desert. To the eastward, along the banks of the river, there are excellent gardens, which extend about four miles; and a great many houses filled with inhabitants stand without the walls. The city, however, is chiefly supplied with fruits and vegetables from the opposite side of the river.

Few Europeans transact any business at Bagdad, or keep consuls here. But an Englishman enjoys a privilege which is not granted to the people of any other nation. Whatever baggage he may have with him, instead of being taken to the custom-house, it is allowed to be carried to the place where he is going to stay, and an officer of the customs is sent thither to examine it. This privilege was obtained by the solicitation of the East India Company's resident at Bussora.

By the kindness of our landlord we have visited the ruins of Babylon, that great city, formerly "the glory of kingdoms, abundant in treasures." He procured us a guard and accompanied us. The ruins

ruins in the eastern quarter are very visible about three miles north of Hillah, an Arabian city on the banks of the Euphrates. There is, in particular, an elevation, which is flat on the top; of an irregular figure, and intersected by ravines. It would never have been suspected for the works of human hands, were it not proved by the layers of bricks found in it. Its height is not more than sixty yards. This my uncle takes for the remains of the tower of Belus. Here are found those large and thick bricks, imprinted with unknown characters. They are baked with fire, and cemented with bitumen: between each layer are found osiers. The places from which the bricks are procured are large thick walls, and sometimes chambers. It does not appear that the writing on the bricks was meant to be read, for it is as common on bricks buried in the walls, as on those on the outside. Earthen vessels, engraved marbles, and black stones with inscriptions on them, are frequently met with. On one wall of a chamber we saw the figures of a cow, and of the sun and moon, formed of varnished bricks.

Our guides led us along a valley, which has been dug out, to get at the bricks of a wall, that appears to have been sixty feet thick. It runs perpendicular to the bed of the river, and was probably the wall of the city. These ruins extend several miles to the north of Hillah, and incontestably mark the situation of ancient Babylon. In the western quarter

ter extensive ranges of walls, partly standing, partly fallen, are to be seen; and of so solid a construction, that it is scarcely possible to detach from them the large bricks employed in the construction. The foundations of buildings, and of the walls of the city, continue to be dug up, and transported to other places, for the purposes of building. The bricks are to be traced amongst the houses of Bagdad, and other cities; as we find Roman bricks, in and about those towns which were formerly Roman stations, in England. It has always been found that the materials of ancient cities have been employed in the building of new ones, in cases where new foundations have been established in the same neighbourhood. In fact, a deserted city is nothing else than a quarry above ground; in which the materials are ready shaped to every one's hand. Thus the Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans, may be said to have provided a stock of materials for building, for the use of posterity, from the durable nature of the bricks; and the observation is applicable to other nations. Some of the blocks of stone used in the new citadel of Fort William, at Calcutta, are from the remains of Gour, the ancient capital of Bengal. And when the French again fortified Pondicherry, after the destruction of its works, by the English, they sawed the masses of brick-work, that hade been blown up, into blocks of a convenient size for building, and used them accordingly. The Babylonish bricks

are,

are, as far as we know, the thickest and largest of all ancient bricks.

The territory round Hillah is chiefly composed of plains, whose soil is rich; and the river banks are bordered with willows. We cannot forget the pathetic words of the captive Jews.

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down; yea, we wept when we remembered Zion.

"We hanged our harps upon the *willows* in the midst thereof."

The predictions of the prophets against Babylon have long since received their accomplishment. "Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for thou shalt no more be called the lady of kingdoms. Babylon is fallen, is fallen!" Should, however, the antiquities of the city become an object of curiosity amongst the learned, there is little doubt but that it might be abundantly gratified, if researches were diligently pursued for that purpose. The delineation and description of the site and remains, would prove one of the most curious pieces of antiquity that has been exhibited in these times. But the danger and disadvantage, with which a traveller pursues his enquiries in these despotic regions, are not easily conceived; where he is not only beset by banditti, in every retired situation, but even finds an enemy in the community at large, because the prejudices of education are sharpened by the persecuting spirit of popular religion.

As

As my brother proposes writing by the same conveyance, I shall bid you adieu for the present; and believe me, dear father,

Your dutiful son,
WILLIAM.

The next chapter will commence with Henry's letter.

CHAP.

A Magnificent Arch an West, including
a distant View of the Temp

UNIV. OF

CHAP. XVI.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Bagdad.*

MY brother having furnished you with an account of Babylon, permit me to add that of Ctesiphon and Seleucia, which we visited on our return. Our great object was to see the ruins of the palace of Chosroes I. king of Persia, supposed to have been built in the sixth century. It is a vast building, of nearly three hundred feet in length in front, by one hundred and sixty in depth; having in the centre a vaulted hall, which is between ninety and one hundred feet in height, to the top of the arch. Its walls are of a degree of strength fully proportioned to the weight of the superstructure; but it is void of elegance, and gave us the idea of a barbarous imitation of Grecian architecture.

Seleucia, on the western bank of the Tigris, about forty-five miles to the north of Babylon, was the capital of the Macedonian conquests in Upper Asia. This independent republic was governed by a senate of three hundred nobles; the people consist of six hundred thousand citizens; and for many ages Seleucia retained the genuine characters of a Grecian colony—arts, military virtue, and the love of freedom. The Parthian monarchs,

like the Mogul sovereigns of Hindustan, delighted in the pastoral life of their Scythian ancestors; and the imperial camp was frequently pitched in the plain of Ctesiphon, on the eastern bank of the Tigris, at the distance of only three miles from Seleucia. The innumerable attendants on luxury and despotism resorted to the court, and the little village of Ctesiphon insensibly swelled into a great city.

In the second century, the Roman generals penetrated as far as Ctesiphon and Seleucia. They were received as friends by the Greek colony; they attacked as enemies the seat of the Parthian kings; yet both cities experienced the same treatment. The sack and conflagration of Seleucia, with the massacre of three hundred thousand of the inhabitans, tarnished the Roman name. Exhausted by the neighbourhood of a too powerful rival, Seleucia sunk under the fatal blow; but Ctesiphon, in about thirty-three years, had sufficiently recovered its strength to maintain an obstinate siege against the Emperor Severus. The city was, however, taken by assault; the king, who defended it in person, escaped: one hundred thousand captives, and a rich booty, rewarded the fatigues of the Roman soldiers. Notwithstanding these misfortunes, Ctesiphon succeeded to Babylon and to Seleucia, as one of the great capitals of the east. Babylon had declined so much before the foundation of Ctesiphon, that it is probable the latter was built

of

of the same bricks. In summer, the monarch of Persia enjoyed at Ecbatana the cool breezes of the mountains of Media; but the mildness of the climate engaged him to prefer Ctesiphon for his winter residence.

Under the Emperor Julian, this city was again besieged. After effecting the passage of the Tigris with great difficulty, in the face of the Persians, the Romans defeated them with great slaughter. The spoil was such as might be expected from the riches and luxury of an oriental camp; large quantities of gold and silver, splendid arms and trappings, and beds and tables of massy silver. In the seventh century, the glory of Ctesiphon was extinguished by the sword of the Saracens. The Persians were overcome by the belief, that the last day of their religion and empire was at hand: the strongest posts were abandoned by treachery or cowardice; and the king, with a part of his family and treasures, escaped to the Median hills. Each chamber of the palace, revealed to the enemy a new treasure, secreted with art or ostentatiously displayed. The gold and silver, the various wardrobes and precious furniture, surpassed, it is said, the estimate of fancy or numbers. One of the apartments was decorated with a carpet of silk, sixty cubits in length and as many in breadth: a garden was depicted on the ground; the flowers, fruits, and shrubs were imitated by the figures of the gold embroidery, and the colours of the pre-

cious stones; and the ample square was encircled by a variegated and verdant border. The Arabian general persuaded his soldiers to relinquish their claim, in the reasonable hope, that the eyes of the caliph would be delighted with the splendid workmanship of nature and industry. Regardless of the merit of art and the pomp of royalty, the rigid caliph divided the prize among his brethren. From the remote islands of the Indian Ocean, a large provision of camphire had been imported, which is employed, with a mixture of wax, to illuminate the palaces of the East. Strangers to the name and properties of that odoriferous gum, the Saracens, mistaking it for salt, mingled the camphire in their bread, and were astonished at the bitterness of the taste.

In every age the foundation and ruin of the Assyrian cities has been easy and rapid; the country is destitute of stone and timber, and the most solid structures are composed of bricks baked in the sun, and joined by a cement of the native bitumen. The sack of Ctesiphon was followed by its desertion and gradual decay. The Saracens disliked the air and situation of the place, and the caliph was advised by his general to remove the seat of government to the western side of the Euphrates. What superb cities did antiquity boast! What remains of the most stately edifices but a confused heap of ruins, which bid defiance to explication? Where is the tomb of Semiramis, of Hannibal, and

and of other illustrious persons? their ashes are now mingled with the common dust. The fleeting shadow, the evaporating fume, the track of a ship through the great deep—such is human life.

Babylonia was a province of the ancient kingdom of Assyria. The whole country might have claimed the peculiar name of Mesopotamia; as the two rivers, which are never more distant than fifty, approach, between Bagdad and Babylon, within twenty-five miles of each other. A multitude of artificial canals connected the rivers, and intersected the plain. Subdividing themselves into smaller branches, they refreshed the dry lands, supplied the deficiency of rain, and facilitated the intercourse of peace and commerce. To the soil and climate of Assyria, nature had denied some of her choicest gifts, the vine, the olive, and the fig-tree; but the food which supports the life of man, and particularly wheat and barley, were produced with inexhaustible fertility; and the husbandman, who committed his seed to the earth, was frequently rewarded with an increase of two, or even three hundred. The face of the country was interspersed with groves of innumerable palm-trees; and the diligent natives celebrated, either in verse or prose, the three hundred and sixty uses to which the trunk, the branches, the leaves, the juice, and the fruit, were skilfully applied. Several manufactures employed the industry of a numerous people. Babylon had been converted into

into a royal park; but new cities, towns, and villages had successively arisen.

While the successors of Cyrus reigned over Asia, the province of Assyria alone maintained, during a third part of the year, the luxurious plenty of the table and household of the great king. Four considerable villages were assigned for the subsistence of his Indian dogs; eight hundred horses, and sixteen thousand mares, were constantly kept at the expence of the country, for the royal stables: and as the daily tribute, which was paid, amounted to one English bushel of silver, we may compute the annual revenue of Assyria at more than twelve million pounds sterling. In the fourth century the fertile fields of Assyria were devoted to the calamities of war between the Romans and Persians. They were afterwards ravaged by the Saracens; and in the hands of their present master, notwithstanding the extreme fertility of the soil, the bad administration of government, combined with the indolence and ignorance of the inhabitants, leave the country a desolate waste.

I could have written much more, my dear mother, but as my uncle wishes for a walk, I must conclude with subscribing myself

Your affectionate

HENRY.

The colonel and his nephews, one morning, made an excursion to Aggarkuf, about nine miles to

to the westward of Bagdad. They found it a shapeless mass of ruins, one hundred and twenty-six feet in height, by one hundred in diameter; and consists entirely of sun-dried bricks, mixed with reeds. As they were examining it, William asked his uncle if he had any idea what it originally was. "Europeans call it," observed the colonel, "the tower of Babel; it might perhaps have been a royal sepulchre. As the mode of building with reeds, between the courses of bricks, appears to have prevailed only amongst the ancient Babylonians, we may reasonably conclude, that it is of Babylonian origin, by its having this characteristic mark in it. But we cannot reason with any effect, on a subject on which we are so little informed."

Bagdad was founded by the Caliph Al-Mansor, the second of the family of the Abassides, in the year 762; and continued to be the imperial seat of his posterity during a reign of five hundred years. He selected for the site of it, a spot secure against the attacks of those who might wish to dispute the caliphate with him; and situate in the middle of a district which would furnish an ample supply of provisions, by means of the rivers to which it gave easy access. Having consulted his astrologers, and engaged skilful workmen, he commenced his undertaking. There is some dispute concerning the etymology of Bagdad, but the first syllable is allowed to signify a garden, in the Persian tongue; the garden of Dad, a christian hermit, whose cell

had been the only habitation on the spot; and who reported to Al-Mansor a tradition that a city was to be built in this place. Bagdad was erected on the ruins of Seleucia, the remains of which, as well as of Ctesiphon, furnished the materials; and it seems to have been divided by the Tigris, as ancient Babylon was by the Euphrates. In four years this famous capital was finished; and was also denominated "the city of peace," either in allusion to the name of Jerusalem, or because, at the time when it was completed, all the commotions in the empire were appeased. It was of a circular form, inclosed by a double wall, and flanked with a considerable number of towers. The citadel was in the middle, and commanded every part of the town. A bridge was constructed in order to facilitate a communication between the eastern and western parts of it. Besides several public buildings, there was a famous college, which has been extolled on account of the beauty and elegance of its structure, the number of students it contained, as well as the learned men it produced. In this "city of peace," amidst the riches of the East, the Abassides soon aspired to emulate the magnificence of the Persian kings. After his wars and buildings, Al-Mansor left behind him, in gold and silver, about thirty millions sterling; and this treasure was exhausted in a few years by the vices or virtues of his children. His son Mahadi, in a single pilgrimage to Mecca, expended two millions

lions of gold. A pious and charitable motive may sanctify the foundation of cisterns and caravanseras, which he distributed along a measured road of seven hundred miles; but his train and camels, laden with snow, could serve only to astonish the natives of Arabia, and to refresh the fruits and liquors of the royal banquet. The courtiers would surely praise the liberality of his grandson, who gave away a sum of two millions four hundred thousand gold pieces, before he drew his foot from the stirrup. At the nuptials of this prince, a thousand pearls of the largest size were showered on the head of the bride, and a lottery of lands and houses displayed the capricious bounty of fortune. The glories of the court were brightened, rather than impaired, in the decline of the empire; for on an embassy, which was received at court in the year 917, the caliph's whole army, both horse and foot, was under arms, which together made a body of one hundred and sixty thousand men. His state-officers stood near him in splendid apparel, their belts glittering with gold and gems. Near them were seven thousand slaves; four thousand of them white, the remainder black. The door-keepers were in number seven hundred. Barges and boats, with the most superb decorations, were seen swimming on the Tigris. Nor was the palace itself less splendid, in which were hung thirty eight thousand pieces of tapestry; twelve thousand five hundred of them were of

silk, embroidered with gold. The carpets on the floor were twenty-two thousand. An hundred lions were brought out, with a keeper to each lion. Among the other spectacles of rare and stupendous luxury, was a tree of gold and silver, spreading into eighteen large branches, on which, and on the lesser boughs, sat a variety of birds made of the same precious metals, as well as the leaves of the tree. While the machinery affected spontaneous motions, the several birds warbled their natural harmony. Through this scene of magnificence, the Greek ambassador was led to the throne.

The language spoken in this city was one of the most polite and elegant dialects of the Arabic, as there was a greater concourse of nobility and learned men, who excelled in many branches of literature, than in almost any other of the East. During a period of four hundred years, Bagdad was frequently seized and plundered, alternately by the Moguls and Persians; but being at length besieged by a formidable army, under Amurath III. it was surrendered to him by the king of Persia, in 1638; and from this time it has remained in the possession of the Turks. From this disastrous period the trade of the place has considerably decayed, as the sultan rifled all the rich merchants. However, though it groans at present under the Turkish yoke, Bagdad is a celebrated emporium and frontier of the Ottoman empire, on the side

of

of Persia; to which not only many merchants, but likewise an incredible number of passengers, travelling from Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt, into Persia, continually resort: its situation on the river rendering it so convenient for trade. The military government is under a basha, who lives in all the splendour of a sovereign prince. He has always a large army in his pay, and entirely devoted to him. The revenues are computed at about one million five hundred and sixty-two thousand five hundred pounds sterling, which he always proves are entirely absorbed by the expences of the army, necessary to be kept on a formidable footing, to serve the empire against any attacks of the Persians or Arabs. Thus the Porte draws no revenue from this extensive province.

Bagdad at present is supposed to contain more treasure than any city of equal size in the world; and the immense quantity of specie and bullion, found in the coffers of the late prime minister, amounted to upwards of three million pounds sterling.

The trade of the city consists chiefly of the following articles: gall-nuts from Curdistan, which are sent to India; shawls from Persia; saffron and copper from Armenia; silk from Diarbekir; and from Aleppo, European cloths; iron-ware, glass, paper, and brass utensils from Venice; drugs, spices, and different kinds of muslins from India.

In Bagdad astronomy took its rise amongst the Chaldeans, and for nine hundred years was carried to great perfection by the Arabian caliphs. It is a study which, next to that of ourselves, is most worthy of cultivation; on account of the grand scene it opens, and the lofty ideas it gives us of the power and goodness of the Creator. Who can, without astonishment, contemplate that magnificent economy, which poised the stars with such inexpressible nicety, and meted out the heavens with a span!

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

THE colonel and his nephews having fully gratified their curiosity, during their residence in Bagdad, began to prepare for their journey across the desert, to visit the ruins of Palmyra. Just before their departure, William wrote as follows to his sister.

MY DEAR SISTER, *Bagdad.*

AS we are going to undertake an arduous expedition across the desert, and you will not hear from us for a length of time, I shall devote this letter to some observations on the people amongst whom we are living. The most striking feature of Turkish manners, is that haughty conceit of superiority, arising from the most narrow and intolerant bigotry. It marks the public and private character: it appears in the ceremony of the court, and in the coarse rusticity of vulgar manners. The insulting distinction of Christian and Mahommedan is carried to so great a length, that even dress is rendered subject to restrictions. If a Christian strikes a Mahommedan, he is most commonly put to death on the spot. If a Turk kills a Christian, he is, generally, only fined. The late sultan, when he mounted the throne, proposed to

put to death all the Christians in the whole empire; and was, with some difficulty, dissuaded from it, on the ground of the loss of the poll-tax, which all Christian subjects pay, as a compensation for being permitted to wear their heads.

Travellers, during their stay in a town, place themselves under the protection of a janissary, for their security, since his authority procures various little comforts, in places where the name of *Infidel* would be sufficient to preclude all chance of civility or assistance. But the traveller must often support the insolent conduct of his guide and protector, and the impertinent dictator of his will. He must wait patiently, whilst the haughty janissary may be disposed to perform his ablutions, say his prayers, &c. Instead of the polite and submissive, "Sir, to what inn shall I drive?" he must put up with, "Infidel! stop—hold my horse, and wait till I return;" without knowing the motive of his servant's errand. It must be observed, that the Porte has lately relaxed considerably from the haughty conduct it formerly maintained; and from prudential motives, rather than from any spirit of toleration, has not only blended unusual civility with the forms of office, but also established a residence of its ministers at several of the courts of Europe. But these political civilities will effect no change in the opinions universally entertained throughout the Ottoman dominions, of the Christian's inferiority.

The indignities and injustice to which Jews are exposed, are truly distressing to every feeling mind. They seem to be the objects upon whom the malignity of man is exercised, in almost every country where they reside; and in many, upon the ill-founded supposition that they are all rich, they are persecuted merely for the purpose of extorting a part, or even the whole of their wealth. Under the specious mask of religion; under the disgraceful prejudices of improper education; and even in direct opposition to the divine commands of our Lord, who incultated a general charity to, and forbearance with, the sons of error; princes, governors, judges, and commonalities have blindly imagined it praise-worthy to treat a Jew with severity. How long shall they be singled out, and treated with cruelty and contempt, whilst the followers of Mahommed, of Bramah, and of Confucius, shall be favoured with respect?

Correspondence is held in so little estimation amongst the Turks, that few can write; and even officers who are employed in situations of considerable importance, having made no further advances in this branch of education than to sign their own names, are compelled to rely upon the assistance of public scribes to carry on their official communications. Of these scribes it is said, that at least thirty thousand obtain a living at Constantinople; and proportionate numbers are distributed through the empire. They are considered

dered of so much importance, that they are regularly sworn, and admitted to practise their professions, by officers, appointed under the vizier's authority, for that purpose.

The man of general science, a character so frequent and so useful in Europe, is unknown in Turkey; and any one, but a mere artificer, who should concern himself with the founding of cannon, the building of ships, &c. would be esteemed little better than a mad-man. The Turks have a predilection for cats; which is said to have originated with their prophet, who, rather than disturb a favourite grimalkin that had selected the sleeve of his habit to sleep upon, cut the dress from it, with a pious regard to her slumbers.

Different Christian states are distinguished by different appellations of contempt. Thus they call the English, atheists; the French, faithless; the Dutch, cheesemongers; the Jews, mangy-dogs; and the Germans, blasphemers. They have a prophecy that the "sons of yellowness," which they interpret to be the Russians, are to enter Constantinople through a certain gate. They say that the Persians are a very wicked people; and that, in the next world, they will be changed into asses, and the Jews will ride on them. To found mosks, and endow them with treasures, is held to be one of the most meritorious works of a mussulman; and further provision is made for the education of youth destined for the service of religion and law,

by

by the establishment of colleges. The monks, who reside in monasteries, are chiefly distinguished by the different ceremonies which they perform; some howling until they spit blood, from the great exertions of their lungs; and others turning round to the sound of music, until they become delirious with the motion.

The Turkish language is the easiest of any we are acquainted with, because it is the most regular. It has only one conjugation of the verbs, and but one declension of the nouns. The cases and persons are determined by the termination, as in Latin; but the phraseology is much more easy. It is true, the Turkish language is not very copious; yet it is manly, energetic, and sonorous. To supply the want of words, or more frequently, from a desire of appearing learned, their writers introduced Arabic and Persian; and these languages are now considerably mixed with the dialects spoken at court, and at the bar. The use of wheel carriages is almost unknown in Turkey. There is a kind of cart, used at Constantinople and in some few other parts, mostly for women to travel in. In most parts of Asia Minor they have no idea of a wheel. All their merchandise is carried by horses, mules, or camels, in every part of the empire. Navigation, or the use of the magnet, none have the least idea of but the people of the navy; and very few of them can take a meridian observation. They rely on the Greeks to navigate their ships of war. Their merchant

merchant ships take care not to lose sight of land; and this is the principal reason why so many of them are lost in the Black Sea. To the present day they are ignorant of the art of casting iron; and this is the reason why all the Turkish cannon, both for land and sea service, are of brass.

It might reasonably be expected that a nation of warriors should have expert surgeons, at least, and that they should have paid attention to the improvements and discoveries made by other nations. Nothing of this, however, is the case. They perform no operations, nor will they consent to a European's making an amputation, though the loss of life be a certain consequence of omitting it. Their art is simply confined to healing, and, at most, extracting a ball and a splinter of a bone. They rely much on balsam, mummy, &c. and, as their habit of body is generally healthy, natures performs often wonderful cures. The Arabs bury a person, who has received a wound in his body, up to the neck in hot sand, for twenty-four hours. In the eastern parts of the empire there is a method of setting bones practised, which may be worthy the attention of surgeons in Europe. It is by inclosing the broken limb, after the bones are put in their places, in a case of plaster of Paris, which takes exactly the form of the limb, without any pressure, and in a few minutes the mass is solid and strong. The limb may be bathed with spirits, which will penetrate through the covering.

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food, or drink, of excellent service in fevers of an inflammatory or putrid kind. The butter, which is mostly used in Constantinople, comes from the Crimea and the Kuban. They do not salt it, but melt it in large copper pans, over a very slow fire, and skim off what rises; it will then preserve sweet a long time, if the butter was fresh when melted. Butter prepared in this way, and salted, will keep two years good and fine tasted. As my father is a lover of coffee, a few remarks on the Turkish manner of making it, the best way, may be acceptable.

It should be roasted in an open earthen or iron pan, and the slower the better. As often as it crackles it must be taken off the fire. It must either be ground to an almost impalpable powder, or pounded in an iron mortar with a heavy pestle. The Turks first put the coffee dry into the pot, and set it over a very slow fire, or embers, till it is warm, and sends forth a fragrant perfume, shaking it often; then from another pot they pour on it boiling water, hold it a little longer over the fire, till there rises a white froth, like cream; it must not boil, but only rise gently. It is then poured backwards and forwards, two or three times, from one pot into another. It soon becomes clear: they, however, often drink it quite thick, without milk or sugar.

The inhabitants of this city are less prejudiced by their religion, and more open to instruction, than

than in other parts of Asia. For the present, my dear sister, I must take my leave of you; and believe me

Your affectionate

WILLIAM.

The colonel and his nephews availed themselves of the protection of a caravan, as far as Annah, a city about five days' journey from Bagdad, where they arrived without any remarkable occurrence. That city is the capital of one of the three principalities into which *Arabia Deserta* is divided. It is situated on the Euphrates, in a fruitful and pleasant soil; and has two streets, which are divided by the river. Every house has some ground belonging to it, which produces a variety of excellent fruit-trees. Annah is the common rendezvous of all the robbers who infest the country; there they hold their councils, and settle their plans of depredation. It is one of the great thoroughfares through which the caravans pass to and from Aleppo, Tripoli, Damascus, Bagdad, and other parts.

Colonel Winterton, to provide in the best way for their safety across the desert, gained admission to the governor, who treated him with great politeness. Having stated his wish of procuring an escort to the ruins of Palmyra, the governor promised him the necessary protection; and laid his hand

hand on his turban, as much as to say, "Be it on my head." The escort consisted of Arab horsemen, armed with guns and pikes; and being joined by a number of merchants, the caravan consisted of about one hundred persons, and different beasts of burthen, loaded with provisions, baggage, &c. The face of the country exhibited a plain surface of sand, limited only by the natural horizon; and being without shade or shelter, is scorched by the direct and intense rays of the sun. The usual mode of our travellers' proceeding was, to set out about two in the morning, and continue travelling till nine or ten the next day. The tents, arms, camels, baggage, and all the travellers, were placed in the centre of the encampment, formed when they halted; and surrounded by the camels, which to prevent their straying, have one of their fore legs tied up. The first occupation, after coming to the ground, is to procure coffee, and this is done in a manner somewhat peculiar.

Almost over the whole desart may be found dried camels' dung, which serves the Arabs for fuel. A quantity is immediately collected, and lighted by means of a fungus, with which every Arab is provided. The coffee, ground to an impalpable powder, is preserved, closely pressed down, in a wooden box, and the quantity required for use is scraped from the surface by means of a wooden spoon. Two small coffee-pots are employed; in one is boiled the water, in the other is

put

put the fresh powder, which is sometimes placed near the fire, to become heated before the boiling water is added to it. The mixture is then boiled two or three times, taking care to pour a few drops of cold water upon it the last time, or to place a cloth dipped in cold water over it: it is then allowed to subside, and afterwards poured into the coffee-pot which contained only the boiling water, or served out without further precaution. After the solace of coffee, a few hours' repose, during the heat of the day, is indulged in by all but those who keep guard, and the scouts, who are invariably dispatched where any apprehensions are entertained of enemies or straggling parties.

In the sands of Arabia the camel is a sacred and precious gift. That strong and patient beast of burden can perform, without eating or drinking, a journey of several days. We may distinguish three sorts of camels. Some are large, and full of flesh, fit only to carry burthens, which are generally from eight hundred to one thousand pounds weight. Others, which have two hunches on the back, like a natural saddle, are fit either to carry burthens or for riding. A third kind, leaner and smaller, is called dromedaries, because of their swiftness. Alive or dead, almost every part of the camel is serviceable to man. Her milk is plentiful and nutritious; the young and tender flesh has the taste of veal; the dung supplies the deficiency of fuel; and the long hair, which falls each

each year and is renewed, is coarsely manufactured into the garments, the furniture, and the tents of the Arabs. Its food is generally the kernels of the date, pounded and made into balls. Camels keep water long in their stomach, for their refreshment; nature having given them a very large ventricle, round about which are many bags inclosed within the coats of it, wherein, it is very probable, these animals keep water in reserve. Our travellers were much amused with the Arab manner of preceding the camels, piping, singing, and whistling; and the louder they sing, the better the camels follow. The horsemen amused themselves, from time to time, by engaging in mock fights. It is surprising to see with what firmness they keep their saddles, and the dexterity with which they manage their horses. Whenever the caravan halted, the Arabs usually sat down in a circle, to drink coffee and smoke; this was their greatest regale. In the mean time, one of the company diverted the rest by singing, or relating a piece of history on the subject of love or war, or with an extempore tale.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

IT is almost impossible to imagine any thing more astonishing than a first view of the ruins of Palmyra. "What a grand prospect!" exclaimed William. "No view can be more striking and romantic," replied the colonel, "than such a vast multitude of Corinthian columns." On the left hand is a wall, which belonged to the court of the temple. A row of twelve noble windows appear in continuity. Between each is a pilaster, of the Corinthian order, supporting the entablature; and over the part of the wall which is still standing, rise the ruins of the temple itself. Before these buildings are inclosures of corn and olive trees, planted by the Arabs, and separated by mud walls; while, on all sides, lie around them magnificent ruins. A little farther to the right is a noble arch, richly ornamented, from which a colonnade extends four thousand feet in length, terminated by a superb mausoleum. Many of these columns are fallen down, and open a view to other ruins. Before this magnificent colonnade stands a small temple, adorned with a noble portico; and still farther to the right is another temple. At some distance are four lofty columns, with their superb entablature. Besides these, are a vast number of

scattered columns, covering the plain, some with, and some without, their entablatures; while the ground is on all sides strewed with broken columns, capitals, rich entablatures, and stones of prodigious magnitude. Towards the right, the distant prospect is terminatad by a range of hills and mountains, on one of which are the ruins of a Turkish fortification, and on another is a castle. After having considered these amazing ruins for some time, our travellers were conducted to an Arab hut, of which there are about thirty in the court of the great temple. The magnificence of that edifice, and the meanness of the habitation, formed a contrast without a parallel. The inhabitants, both men and women, are well shaped; the complexions of the latter are swarthy, but their features good: they were veiled, but were not so scrupulous about showing their faces as the women of the East generally are. They hang rings, of either gold or brass, in their ears and noses; they colour their lips blue, their eyes and eye-brows black, and the tips of their fingers red. It seldom rains there, except at the time of the equinoxes; and our travellers enjoyed a serene sky all the time they staid, except one afternoon, when there fell a little shower, preceded by a whirlwind, which raised such a quantity of sand as entirely darkened the air, and gave the colonel and his nephews an idea of the terrible storms which are sometimes fatal to whole caravans. They continued there ten days, amusing themselves with exploring

exploring the ruins, and taking drawings of them; during which time the inhabitants supplied themselves with mutton and goats' flesh. The mountains afford an extensive view to the south, where the desert resembles the sea; and to the west may be distinctly perceived several parts of the mountains of Libanus. The barren tract in which the city stands, might be made a delightful spot, by means of two rivers, which are entirely neglected. The water of both is hot, and mixed with sulphur. The most considerable of these streams rises to the west, at the foot of the mountain, in a fine grotto, almost high enough in the middle, for a man to stand upright in it. The whole bottom is a bason of clean water, about two feet deep; and the heat being thus concentrated, renders it an excellent bath, for which purpose it is used by the Arabs. The other stream, after running for some time through the ruins, in an ancient subterranean aqueduct, joins the first, and is lost with it in the sands. Three or four miles to the south-east of the ruins, in the desert, is the valley of salt, where David, probably, smote the Syrians; and which still supplies Damascus and the neighbouring towns with great quantities of that commodity. They hollow the ground upwards of a foot deep, and from the rain-water, which lodges in these cavities, rises a fine white salt, that is gathered after the water is exhaled by the sun.

"These noble remains of Palmyra," said the

colonel, " are too striking and magnificent not to excite our curiosity, with respect to its condition in ancient times. It is natural to enquire, how a spot like this, divided from the rest of the world by an inhospitable desert, came to be chosen for its situation; who was its founder; and from what quarter it drew the riches necessary to its support? But it is remarkable, that history scarcely makes any mention of Balbec and Palmyra; and we have little knowledge of them but what is supplied by inscriptions. Can the loss of books be the cause? or did the ancients set less value on these edifices than we do at present? By the natural and ordinary course, the memory of cities is preserved longer than their ruins. It is only from history that we have any knowledge of Troy, Babylon, and Memphis: but here are two examples, of considerable cities, which still subsist to relate, if we may use the expression, their own history. Is not even this silence of history instructive? Does it not inform us, that there are periods in history which are entirely concealed from us? All the authorities of the ancients, with respect to this city, may be reduced to these: In the Arabic translation of the second book of Chronicles, chap. viii. Palmyra is mentioned as subsisting before the time of Solomon: but John, Bishop of Antioch, who wrote in the fifth century, says, that it was built by that monarch, on the very spot

where

where David slew Goliah, in honour of that memorable action."

"The Old Testament informs us, 1 Kings, ix. and 2 Chron. viii. that Solomon erected a city in the wilderness, and called it Tedmor. The Greeks and Romans afterwards gave it the name of Palmyra. St. Jerome says, that Tedmor and Palmyra are the Syrian and Greek names of the same place: even at present the Arabs call it by the Syrian name. But the structures erected by Solomon were, doubtless, entirely destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, who, we are assured, demolished that city before he besieged Jerusalem. It cannot be reasonably supposed, that edifices, in the elegant style of those of Palmyra, were prior to the establishment of the Greeks in Syria; and taking this for granted, we shall not be surprised that Xenophon takes no notice of this city: nor shall we wonder at its not being mentioned in the history of Alexander the Great. We do not find any mention of it in the Roman history, before the time of Mark Anthony, who would have plundered it, had not the inhabitants secured themselves, by transporting their most valuable effects beyond the Euphrates. At that time the inhabitants were merchants, and sold to the Romans the merchandises of India and Arabia. After the victories of Trajan, Palmyra flourished more than one hundred and fifty years, in the subordinate, though honourable, rank of a colony. It was during that peaceful period, that the

wealthy Palmyrenians constructed those sumptuous temples, palaces, and porticoes, of Grecian architecture, whose ruins, scattered over an extent of several miles, have deserved the curiosity of so many travellers.

"The elevation of Odenathus and Zenobia appeared to reflect new splendour on their country, and Palmyra, for a while, stood forth the rival of Rome; but the competition was fatal. In the year 273 it surrendered to the Romans, and Zenobia was led in triumph to Rome. The fame of Longinus will survive that of the queen who betrayed, or the tyrant who condemned him. Without uttering a complaint, he calmly followed the executioner, pitying his unhappy mistress, and bestowing comfort on his afflicted friends. The seat of commerce, of arts, and of Zenobia, gradually sunk into an obscure town, a trifling fortress, and at length a miserable village. And there is no means of knowing what has happened to it, since the destruction of the eastern empire by the Mahommedans."

Before the merchants had completed their loading of salt, the Arab escort began to grow impatient, and to solicit our travellers' departure; alleging, that if the Bedoweens gained intelligence of them, they might think the caravan a prize worth looking after. They therefore hastily left Palmyra, one evening, with the greatest regret; where its few miserable inhabitants expressed the utmost astonishment

astonishment at a visit, the reason of which they could not comprehend. As they passed through the valley, they saw many square towers, of a considerable height, which were the ancient sepulchres of the inhabitants. The next day they halted at a ruined tower, on which they observed the cross of Malta, in two or three places. Here are the ruins of a superb building; but a magnificeut door-case of white marble, is the only part that remains standing, which is not covered with sand. The road from hence to Carieteen, was through a level, sandy plain, affording neither a tree, nor a drop of water, and bounded by a chain of barren mountains to the right and left. At a distance they discovered a party of Arabs, to whom, had they been superior in number, they must have fallen an easy prey, in the languid state to which both men and horses were reduced, after a march of about twenty hours, over the burning sands, without the slightest breeze to refresh, or the least shade to shelter them from the beams of the sun. Howareen was the next station. The ruins here are a proof of its having been once a considerable place. A square tower, with projecting battlements, seems to have been built three or four hundred years ago; and two churches, in ruins, may be of the same age. After three hours' march, they arrived at Sudud, a small village, inhabited by Maronite Christians. The houses are built of bricks, dried in the sun; and the inhabitants cultivate

as much land around the village as is barely sufficient for their subsistence! they also make tolerably good wine. The next morning our travellers entered the city of Damascus, where we shall leave them to repose, after the fatigues of their long and dangerous expedition.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

THE city of Damascus is surrounded with double walls, well built and very high, and flanked at different distances with round and square towers. There are eight gates; one is called the Gate of Peace, because no duties are paid either entering in or going out of it, a grand signor having given it that privilege: another is termed the Sacred Gate, because the present, which is sent annually to Mecca, passes through it. The first object which travellers visit is the house of Ananias: the descent is by fourteen steps into a cellar, which was formerly a church, paved with the remains of mosaic work. At present it is converted into a mosk; this, they say, was the chamber where Ananias lodged, when God commanded him to go to Saul, as related in the Acts of the Apostles. Having visited that house, wherein there is nothing curious except the antiquity of it, the colonel and his nephews proceeded to the east gate; it is likewise called St. Paul's gate, because near it the apostle was let down in a basket from the wall. Here begins the straight street, mentioned in Scripture, which extends to the western gate. The tomb of St. George, without the walls, is built of free-stone, and covered with a small pavilion in the form of a pyramid; and below there is

a little opening, wherein the Christians generally keep a lamp burning. Their devotion at that place is very great, and is even imitated by the Turks, who affirm, as well as the Christians, that miracles are daily wrought there, and that several sick Turks, after passing a night in that place, have come out next morning in perfect health. On the saint's holy-day, men, women, and children, as well Turks as Christians, repair to the tomb: in the court is a burial place for Christians. The green mosk is so called because it is covered with green glazed bricks; within is a large court, with a fountain in the middle; at the end is a portico, supported by eight marble pillars, of the Corinthian order, through which they enter the mosk by three doors. The Turks say that this mosk was built there, because that Mahommed being come so far, would not enter the town, pretending that it was too delicious a place. "There is but one paradise," said he, "designed for man; mine shall not be of this world." He therefore set one foot on a neighbouring hill, and from thence made but one leap to Mecca: this is the reason why the mosk is covered with green tiles, the colour of the prophet. The mosks are the handsomest buildings in the city, whereof many were formerly Christian churches. The caravansaries consist of long galleries, supported by marble pillars, and surrounding a large square court. The houses are built of wood, with their fronts towards the inner court,

court, without any windows to the street. The peculiar beauty of this city is owing to several streams, which run across the plain and water all the gardens, supply the numerous public fountains, and are conveyed into every house. Its fertile and delicious environs, covered with flowers and fruits, contribute very much to its celebrity; on which account many authors call it the paradise of the world. The Jews are the principal merchants, who carry on a flourishing trade in wines, fruits, silk, plums, odoriferous waters, and arms of different kinds; particularly sabres, which are in such high request among the Turks, that almost any price is given for a Damascus blade.

This most noble city, as it has been styled, according to oriental traditions is older than Abraham or Semiramis. In Isaiah we find the prophet's denunciation against it: "Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap." After having been successively plundered by the nations of old, in the year 633, the Arabs laid siege to this ancient capital of Syria. At some distance from the walls they encamped among the groves and fountains of that delicious territory, and the usual option of the Mahommedan faith, of tribute or of war, was proposed to the resolute citizens, who had been lately strengthened by a reinforcement of five thousand Greeks. After some general and

partial actions, a venerable Greek advanced, in the presence of both armies, with a liberal offer of peace. A smile of indignation expressed the refusal of the Saracen chief. "Ye Christian dogs, you know your option—the koran, the tribute, or the sword. We are a people whose delight is in war, rather than peace; and we despise your pitiful arms, since we shall be speedily masters of your wealth, your families, and your persons." At length the chief gave the signal of onset and victory; and the death of four hundred and seventy musselmans was compensated by the opinion that they had killed above fifty thousand of the infidels. The spoil was inestimable; many banners and crosses of gold and silver, precious stones, silver and gold chains, and innumerable suits of the richest armour and apparel: the general distribution of these treasures was postponed till Damscus should be taken. The sad tidings were carried to the city by the speed of grief and terror; however, the courage of the garrison was rekindled by the example and authority of a noble Greek. At the principal gate, in the sight of both armies, a lofty crucifix was erected; the bishop, with his clergy, accompanied the march, and laid the volume of the New Testament before the image of our Saviour. In the silence of the night, the signal was given by a stroke on the great bell: the gates were thrown open; and each gate discharged an impetuous column on the sleeping camp

camp of the Saracens. With the knowledge of the peril, they soon recovered their ranks, and charged the assailants in the flank and rear; and after the loss of thousands, the Christian general retreated with a sigh of despair. After a siege of seventy days, it was agreed that the sword should be sheathed; a large majority of the people accepted the terms of toleration and tribute; and Damascus is still peopled by twenty thousand Christians. In the year 1401, this city was again taken, and plundered by Tamerlane, who imposed a contribution of ten millions of gold. One particular family, and a colony of artificers, alone were reserved in the general massacre; and after a period of seven centuries, Damascus was reduced to ashes, because a Tartar was moved by religious zeal to avenge the blood of an Arab.

We shall conclude this chapter with a letter from William to his mother, containing some observations on the Arabs of the desert.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Damascus.*

AS we have traversed a very large extent of the desarts of Arabia, I shall give you some account of the wandering inhabitants of this inhospitable region. According to the oriental writers, the Arabs are distinguished into two classes, viz. the genuine Arabs, and the naturalized Arabs. An assemblage of families, all sprung from the same stock, forms what we call a tribe. The Bedoweens,

weens, or pastoral Arabs, who live in tents, have many schechs, or chiefs, each of whom governs his family with power almost absolute. They have never been subdued by any conqueror; but such of them as have been enticed, by the prospect of an easier way of life, to settle near towns, and in fertile provinces, are now, in some measure, dependent on the sovereigns of these provinces. The separation of the Arabs from the rest of mankind has accustomed them to confound the ideas of a stranger and enemy; and the poverty of the land has introduced a maxim of jurisprudence, which they believe and practise to the present hour. They pretend, that in the division of the earth, the rich and fertile climates were assigned to the other branches of the human family; and that the posterity of the outlaw Ishmael might recover, by fraud or force, the portion of inheritance of which he had been unjustly deprived. Thus, the seizure of a caravan is not a robbery that can excite in them any remorse. If a Bedoween discovers from afar a solitary traveller, he rides furiously against him, crying with a loud voice, "undress thyself, thy aunt, (my wife,) is without a garment." A ready submission entitles him to mercy, resistance will provoke the aggressor, and his own blood must expiate the blood which he presumes to shed in legitimate defence. But they are not cruel, and do not murder those whom they rob, unless when travellers stand upon the defensive. Upon all

all occasions they act in a manner consistent with their natural hospitality. Upon this head the following anecdotes may illustrate their character. An Englishman, who was travelling express to India, hired two Arabs at Bagdad, who were to accompany him to Bussora. By the way he was attacked by some Bedoweens, against whom he at first defended himself with his pistols; but, being hard pressed by their lances, was forced to surrender. The Bedoweens, upon whom he had fired, beat him until he was unable to walk. They then carried him to their camp, entertained him for some time, and at last conducted him safe to Bussora.

A European, belonging to a caravan which was plundered, had been infected with the plague upon his journey. The Arabs, seeing him too weak to follow his companions, took him with them, lodged him without their camp, attended him till he was cured, and then sent him to Bussora.

The pillaging of the caravans is not always owing merely to the propensity which the Arabs have to robbery. Their plundering expeditions are commonly considered by themselves as lawful hostilities, against enemies who would defraud the nation of their dues; or against rival tribes, who have undertaken to protect those illegal traders.

In one of those expeditions, a few years since, undertaken against the Basha of Damascus, who was conductor of the caravan to Mecca, the Arab tribe,

tribe, which gained the victory, showed instances of their ignorance, and of the simplicity of their manners. One of them, having obtained for his share a bag of pearls, thought them rice, which he had heard to be good food, and gave them to his wife to boil, who, when she found that no boiling could soften them, threw them away as useless.

The nice sensibility of honour, which weighs the insult rather than the injury, sheds its deadly venom in the quarrels of the Arabs: the honour of their women, and of their beards, is most easily wounded. An indelicate action, or a contemptuous word, can be expiated only by the blood of the offender; and such is their patient inveteracy, that they expect whole months and years the opportunity for revenge. In every inhabited district, fires are lighted up at night, which are called the fires of hospitality, to invite the travellers who miss their way, or are in want of rest from the fatigues of their journey; and after well regaling them, they are set forward on their route, with the sound of instruments and with presents. The Arabs extend their generosity and kindness, even to the animals that grow old in their service; granting them the privilege of grazing in the richest pastures, exempt from every species of labour; and they send them provender even to the summits of their mountains. In politeness, the Arabs vie with the Persians. The common mode of salutation

tion is "peace be with you;" in pronouncing which words, they raise the right hand to the heart. The hand of a superior is kissed in token of respect; and hence probably is derived the expression, among the southern nations of Europe, which concludes their letters, "I kiss your hands." An Arab who violates the sanctity of an oath, is doomed to grow old in ignominy; and when two friends contract reciprocal obligations, they cannot decline them without being treated as profligates. As to the wandering Arabs, their poverty is voluntary. They prefer liberty to wealth; pastoral simplicity to a life of constraint and toil, which might procure for them a greater variety of gratifications. Those who live in cities, or who are employed in the cultivation of the land, are kept in poverty by the exorbitancy of the taxes to which they are subject. The whole substance of the people is consumed in the support of their numerous princes and priests.

The huts of the lower people are formed of branches of the date tree, having a round roof, covered with rush mats. Amongst the rich, the men occupy the fore part of the house, and the women the back part. If there are no separate apartments, the Arabs, when they introduce a stranger, enter before him, and cry out, "retire;" upon which the women instantly disappear. No person ever enters a room, without having first put off his shoes. The Arabs practise several modes

modes of sitting; but that to which they recur, for the greatest ease, is crossing their legs under their body; but in the presence of superiors, an Arab sits with his two knees touching each other, and with the weight of the body resting upon the heels. The Arab tents are mostly made of black hair-cloth, which the women weave; with a separate apartment for their wives, made by letting down a curtain or carpet, upon occasion, from one of the poles. Men and cattle lodge together in the winter time, on account of warmth. They have only some mats on which they lie, and coverlits; seldom any cushions, a stone serving them for a bolster: their utensils consist of pots, great wooden bowls, hand-mills, pitchers, and goat-skin bottles. These things are put up and carried in hair sacks, and baskets covered with skin. The emirs, or princes, live very differently: they have always two tents, one for themselves, the other for their wives, besides a number of smaller ones for their domestics, together with a tent of audience. They are furnished with quilts, carpets, coverlits of all sorts, and some very beautiful, stitched with flowers of gold and silver. The Arabs, in general, are sober, frugal, and abstemious. Their usual articles of food are rice, pulse, milk, butter, and sour curds. All roasted meat is a delicacy, and rarely eaten by them; stewed meat also is only to be met with among them at feasts, and great tables. Mutton and beef are cut into small pieces, about the

the size of a walnut, salted and peppered, then put on to iron skewers, and roasted over a charcoal fire, and served up with chopped onion. One of the principal things with which the Arabs regale themselves at breakfast is cream, or new butter mixed with honey, which is presented to those they would honour with great distinction. It is a common thing among the Arabs, to threaten a person with burning him with cow-dung, when they would menace him with a dreadful, lingering punishment. Its extreme slowness in burning must make the quickness of the fire of thorns a very remarkable contrast, and give a liveliness to the saying of Solomon; "As the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool." And when they use this latter kind of fuel, it seems to be under their pots, which further illustrates the expression. Numberless instances of this kind might be brought to prove how much the Eastern nations still preserve the customs we read of in Scripture.

All the Arabs are accustomed to eat locusts: the red sort are esteemed fatter and more succulent than any of the others. When sprinkled with salt and fried, they are not unlike, in taste, to our fresh-water craw-fish, and are eaten as a delicacy. The swarms of these insects darken the air, and at a distance appear like clouds of smoke. In flying, their noise is tremendous, and resembles that of a water-fall. There is a species of insect, found in

in gardens, which the women in these countries fry in butter and eat, in order to acquire that plumpness which is deemed in the East a beauty. Their grain is bruised with stones, as they have no mills; and in the desert they bake their cakes in a pan, either on live coals, or on camel's-dung, where they cover it till it is penetrated by the heat. At their meals, they squat themselves upon the ground when they sit, and eat of all dishes with the fingers. They repeat always a short prayer before meals: "in the name of the most merciful God;" and every one when he has done, retires, pronouncing, "God be praised." All the women wear rings on their fingers, arms, nose, and ears. They stain their hands and feet red; and paint the circle of the eyes, and even the eye-lashes, black, with a preparation of lead.

I shall close this letter, my dear mother, with a few observations on this city. It was in being in Abraham's time, and consequently may be looked upon as one of the most ancient cities in the world. In the time of king David it seems to have been a very considerable place; as the sacred historian tells us, that the Syrians of Damascus sent twenty thousand men to the relief of the king of Zobah. It is situated in a plain of so great extent, that one can but just discern the mountains which encompass it. The gardens are computed to be full thirty miles round. The houses are all built on the outside with sun-burnt bricks; and yet it is no uncommon thing to see the gates and doors adorned

adorned with marble portals, carved and inlaid with great beauty and variety: and within are large square courts, planted with fragrant trees, and adorned with marble fountains. The ceilings of the apartments are richly painted and gilt. It deserves a remark, that the Eastern floors and ceilings are just the reverse of ours. Their ceilings are of wood, and their floors of plaister or of painted tiles. The upper part of the room is raised above the floor, and adorned on the sides with a variety of marbles mixed in mosaic knots and mazes, spread with carpets, and furnished with bolsters and cushions, often covered with white satin and trimmed with gold lace. This part of an apartment I should call the drawing-room. The houses have all flat roofs, where, during the summer, the inhabitants sleep in arbours made of the boughs of trees. Thus we find in Scripture that Samuel called Saul to the house-top, where he lodged all night; and to this circumstance probably Solomon alludes, when he says, "it is better to dwell in a corner of the house-top, than with a brawling woman in a wide house." The fruit tree called the Damascene, and the flower called the damask rose, were introduced into Europe from the gardens of this city: and the silks and linens, known by the name of damasks, were probably original manufactures of Damascus. Adieu, my dear mother, yours dutifully,

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

THE colonel and his nephews proceeded on their journey to visit the celebrated ruins of Baalbec, distant about fifty miles from Damascus. This city was celebrated by the Greeks and Latins under the name of Heliopolis, or the city of the Sun; described by the Arabians as the wonder of Syria, and denoting, by its present Arabic name, Baalbec, i. e. the vale of Baal, its connexion with the worship of the sun, of which Baal, the chief idol deity of the country, was an appropriate denomination. The grand temple is two hundred feet in length, and one hundred in breadth. The front is adorned with a double portico of eight columns; thirteen may be counted on either side: their shafts are nearly sixteen feet in circumference, and forty-four in height. The roof has fallen in, and only lets in light to show a chaos of ruins, covered with dust and weeds, instead of a prostrate people, and sacrifices offering by a multitude of priests. At the end of one of the courts, the eye is attracted by six enormous and majestic columns, which render the scene astonishingly grand and picturesque. Another object, not less interesting, is a second range of columns to the left. On each side of the court are apartments, which

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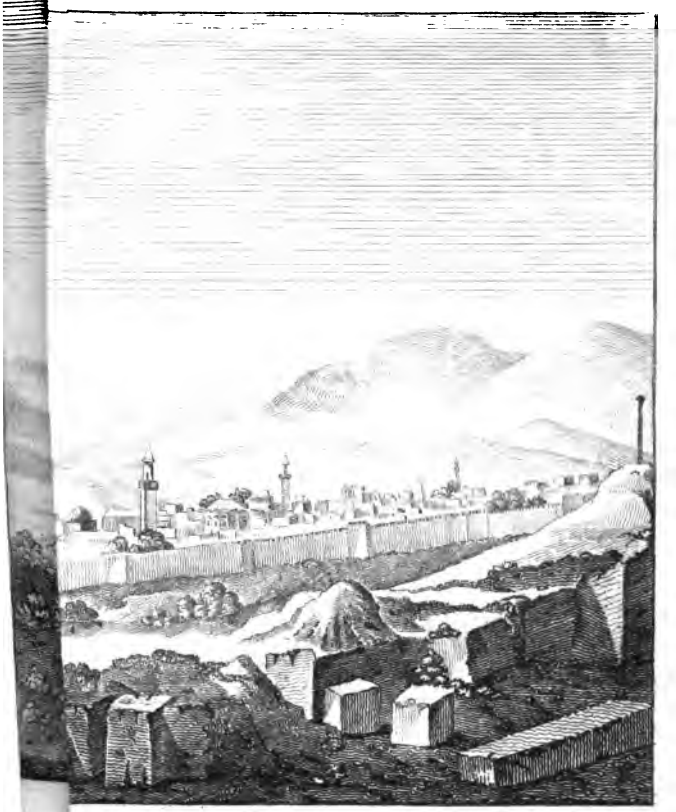

e south.

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which form a kind of gallery, ornamented with beautiful pilasters and rich friezes. Another court is strewed with broken columns, mutilated capitals, and the remains of pilasters, entablatures, and cornices; around is a row of ruined edifices, which display all the ornaments of the richest Corinthian architecture. These ruins suffered very much by an earthquake, in the year 1759; but the Turks also have had their share in the destruction of the columns. Their motive is to procure the iron cramps, which serve to join the several blocks of which each column is composed. Nothing can surpass the workmanship of these columns; they are joined without any cement, yet there is not room for the blade of a knife between their interstices. After so many ages, they, in general, still retain their original whiteness. But, what is still more astonishing is, the enormous stones which compose a sloping wall of about thirty feet. To the west, the second layer is formed of stones, which are from twenty-eight to thirty-five feet long, by about nine in height. Over this layer there are three stones, which alone occupy a space of one hundred and seventy-five feet and one half; and each of these are twelve feet thick. These stones are of a white granite, of which there is a quantity under the whole city, and in the adjacent mountain, which is open in several places. There is still lying there one block, hewn on three sides, which is sixty-nine feet long, twelve feet ten inches

inches broad, and thirteen feet three in thickness. By what means could the ancients move these enormous masses? This is, doubtless, a problem in mechanics curious to resolve. The inhabitants of Baalbec have a very commodious way of explaining it, by supposing these edifices to have been constructed by Genii, who obeyed the orders of Solomon; adding, that the motive for such immense works was to conceal vast treasures, which still remain.

"We cannot but be astonished," said the colonel to his nephews, as they contemplated the ruins, "at the silence of ancient authors with regard to this magnificent city. The only historical authority that has yet been discovered, relating to this subject, is a fragment of John of Antioch, who says that the Emperor Antoninus Pius, "built a great temple to Jupiter, at Heliopolis, near Libanus, which was one of the wonders of the world." We are ignorant of the state of this city in remote antiquity; but it is to be presumed that its situation, on the road from Tyre to Palmyra, gave it some part of the commerce of those opulent capitals. Under the Romans, Heliopolis was constituted a colony by Julius Cæsar; and in the time of Augustus, it is mentioned as a garrison town. One hundred and forty years after, Antoninus built there the present temple; but Christianity having gained the ascendency under Constantine, it was converted into a church. It continued

tinued thus until the invasion of the Arabs. Wars succeeded, and it was converted into a place of defence; and from that time, the temple, exposed to the ravages of war, fell rapidly to ruin."

This city was the capital of a long and fruitful valley, styled Hollow Syria, (Cœlesyria,) which is confined by the two ridges of Libanus and Anti-Libanus. The summits of these mountains are always covered with snow. The cedars of Libanus have been celebrated from the first ages of the world; but now there are scarcely any remaining. Modern Baalbec is pleasantly situated at the extremity of this valley, at the foot of Mount Anti-Libanus, on the last rising ground where the mountain terminates in the plain. It is well watered by two streams, and surrounded with gardens; but wars have almost made it deserted and ruinous. Of five thousand inhabitants, at which number they were estimated in 1751, not twelve hundred are now remaining, and all these poor, without industry or commerce, and cultivating nothing but a little cotton, some maize, and water-melons.

Two days' journey from hence brought our travellers to Tripoli, a considerable town on the coast of the Mediterranean. It is defended by a good citadel, with a garrison of janissaries. The harbour is two miles from the town, which is formed by a piece of land, united to the continent by an isthmus. On either side is a bulwark, which have each one hundred janissaries, and great guns to defend the entrance. It is the residence

of a basha, who also governs the neighbouring territory, which abounds with mulberry trees, so that the inhabitants are enabled to carry on a silk manufactory in the town. This city was included in the ancient kingdom of Phœnicia, whose inhabitants were so famous for navigation in the early ages of the world. The country, which was once only a narrow and rocky coast, and the neighbouring territory of the Holy Land, will for ever live in the memory of mankind; since America, as well as Europe, has received letters from the one, and religion from the other. The progress of religion is well known. The use of letters was introduced among the savages of Europe about 1500 years before the birth of our Saviour; and the Europeans carried them to America about fifteen centuries after the Christian æra. But in a period of three thousand years, the Phœnician alphabet received considerable alterations, as it passed through the hands of the Greeks and Romans.

The day after our travellers' arrival, the colonel expressed a wish to the merchant, to whom he had a letter of recommendation, of being introduced to the Basha of Tripoli. As it is counted uncivil to visit in the East without a previous present, the colonel sent to the basha a pair of beautiful pistols, which he had bought at Damascus, to procure a propitious reception. All great men expect it, as a kind of tribute due to their character and authority,

rity, and look upon themselves as affronted when this compliment is omitted. Even in familiar visits, amongst inferior people, they seldom come without bringing a flower, or an orange, or some other token of their respect to the person visited; the Turks in this point keeping up the ancient oriental custom. "If we go," says Saul, "what shall we bring the man of God; there is not a present," &c. In what a strong point of light, as to their veneration of our Lord, does this place the present the Eastern Magi made him: in the circumstances in which they found him, lying in a manger; and poor as his parents were, yet they treated him as a royal child, and presented him with gifts of the richest and choicest kind, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, such as the queen of Sheba presented to Solomon in all his glory. On their arrival at the gate, the colonel and his nephews were introduced into a spacious court, paved with different kinds of marble, and a fountain and small garden in the centre, which is peculiarly agreeable in a hot climate. A veil, expanded upon ropes, was stretched over the court, from one side to the other, as a shelter from the heat. From hence they were conducted to an upper apartment; for the chief rooms in Turkish houses are those above, the ground floor being chiefly made use of for their horses and servants. The apartment was a large and lofty hall, with a dome at the top, which had several open windows towards the north; these are so constructed as to throw the

air into the room, by which means it is constantly cool, though the weather is excessively hot. The windows are square wooden projections, made of lattice-work, wrought with a great deal of taste, instead of panes of glass; a very uncommon thing in the East, and even in many parts of the south of Europe. The divan, where company is received, is raised about eighteen inches higher than the floor: it was covered with a most beautiful carpet; the sides were of carved wainscottings of cedar; the walls were incrusted with the finest marbles; the cornice was filled with porcelain, above which were passages from the Koran, beautifully written in gold letters; and the ceiling was of curious fret-work, neatly painted and gilt. On the divan were thick mattresses, covered with scarlet velvet, and large bolsters of brocade for the convenience of leaning. As the Turks have no chairs, it is upon these they sit, and all their rooms are so furnished. The basha was seated cross-legged in the corner of the divan, which is the place of honour in Turkey. This custom was also prevalent in Russia, for we are assured that among the Russians they were wont to place the picture of their guardian-saint in the corner of their rooms. The basha received the colonel and his nephews without many compliments, but in a friendly manner. Finding William conversant in the modern Greek language, he readily entered into conversation with him. Soon after two slaves brought in pipes and coffee, and set a brasier full of burning perfumes

in

in the middle of the room, the air of which was soon impregnated with its odours; and afterwards presented sweetmeats, of various kinds, and sherbet. Smoking, among the Turks, is carried to a very high degree of refinement. Their pipes are, usually, of jessamine wood, the mouth-pieces of amber, and often enriched with precious stones; they are commonly five or six feet in length, ornamented with narrow ribband, of different colours, and silver thread intermixed. They are particularly nice in the choice of tobacco: the best grows in Syria, and, to render it more agreeable, they mix with it the odoriferous wood of aloes. The vapour imbibed is, therefore, very mild and grateful. They have the power of sending the smoke through their eyes, ears, and nostrils.

When the visit was almost ended, a slave, bearing a silver plate, in which precious essences were burning, went round to the company and perfumed the beard of each in turn, and afterwards sprinkled rose water on their heads and hands. Thus we see that the ancient custom of perfuming, as sung by the royal prophet, is still retained. Anacreon, the poet of the Graces, incessantly repeats, "I delight to sprinkle my body with precious perfumes, and crown my head with roses." This last ceremony is a signal for the company to retire. Colonel Winterton and his nephews therefore took their leave, highly gratified with the novelty of the scene.

CHAP. XXI.

BEFORE our travellers' departure from Tripoli, William prepared the following letter to his father.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Tripoli.*

I CANNOT employ a short interval of leisure better than in sending you some account of manners peculiar to the East.

Although shade is so essential an article of oriental luxury, yet few plantations of trees are to be found in Turkey; the inhabitants being discouraged from labours which produce such distant and precarious enjoyments, in a country where even the annual fruits of their industry are uncertain. Amongst other violences of the Arabs, that of riding into the houses of those they mean to harrass, is not one of the least observable; the rather, as it seems to be referred to in Scripture. In those towns, more exposed to depredations, all the doors are equally low, to prevent the Arabs from entering their houses on horseback. May not that passage in Proverbs refer to this, "He that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction?"

The Turks are so cautious to avoid a cool air, when they sleep, that they choose for their bedchambers

chambers the smallest and lowest roofed rooms on the ground floor, burning also in them not only a lamp, but often one or two pans of charcoal, which would certainly suffocate those who have not been accustomed to this bad practice. But all this is to be understood of the winter time; for in summer, on the contrary, they are fond not only of sitting in a cool air, but of sleeping in it also; and make use of different methods to obtain this refreshment, lying on the house-tops, or having their mattresses laid in the court-yards for the sake of coolness.

The walls of the eastern houses are very thick, in order to shelter the inhabitants more effectually from the great heats. Large and magnificent houses are, in some places, built with mud, on the outsides, particularly at Damascus; the consequence is, that after a violent rain, the streets, which are not paved, become, by the washing of the houses, like a quagmire. This is particularly singular at Damascus, as there is plenty of stone in the neighbourhood. The architecture of the country of Job seems to have been of the same kind, for he speaks of *digging* through houses; and these walls of dried mud, when moistened with copious showers, must have been liable to accidents of this kind, at the same time that the thickness of them must have made the term, digging, peculiarly expressive. The rooms in houses of the rich are often covered and adorned, from the

middle of the wall downwards, with velvet or damask hangings, of white, blue, red, green, or other colours, suspended upon hooks, or taken down, at pleasure. It may be thought a subject of enquiry somewhat curious, how the Turks illuminate their houses, as they have few or no windows towards the streets: this is done by placing great numbers of lamps in and before the gates of the houses. After the same manner the Jews solemnized the feast of Dedication.

An inhabited city without chimneys seems to be an oddity, and almost an impossibility; and yet they are not so necessary in an eastern city as we of the west are ready to imagine. Fires, in winter, are very little used, and then they are only of charcoal, in pans; for the Turks, in cold weather, put on an extra pelisse, instead of a fire.

The great external purity which is so studiously attended to by the modern eastern people, produces some odd circumstances with respect to their dogs. They do not suffer them in their houses, and even with care avoid their touching them in the streets, which would be considered as a defilement. One would imagine then, that under these circumstances, as they do not appear by any means necessary, there should be very few; yet, notwithstanding, they crowd their streets. They do not appear to belong to particular persons, as our dogs do, but get their food where they can. At the same time they consider it as a right

right to take care of them: and charitable people frequently give money to butchers and bakers to feed them at stated times, and some even leave legacies, at their deaths, for the same purpose.

The Arabs have a singular method of baking, which is to make a fire in a great stone pitcher, and when it is heated, they mix meal and water, as we do paste, which they apply, with the hollow of their hands, to the outside of the pitcher, and it is baked in an instant. The bread comes off as thin as wafers; and the operation is so speedily performed, that in a very short time a sufficient quantity is made.

Delicious as honey is to an eastern palate, yet it sometimes produces terrible effects. Thus we read that the English who attended Edward I. into the Holy Land, died in great numbers, owing, partly, to their intemperate eating of honey and fruits. This, perhaps, may give us the thought of Solomon: "It is good not to eat much honey." He had before mentioned that an excess in eating honey occasioned sickness and vomiting; but, if it was thought sometimes to produce deadly effects, there is greater energy in the instruction.

A shoulder of lamb is thought, in the East, a great delicacy. When Abdolmelic, caliph of the Saracens, made a splendid entertainment, he asked Amron, one of his guests, what meat he liked best of all that ever he had eaten; the old man answered, "An ass's neck, well seasoned and well roasted."

"That is nothing," said Abdolmelic; "what say you to a shoulder of a sucking lamb, well roasted, and covered with butter and milk?" If this prince then thought the shoulder of a sucking lamb one of the most exquisite of dishes, what he says explains Samuel's ordering it to be reserved for the future king of Israel.

The Turks esteem it a folly, and indeed a sin, to kill a calf; an animal so small, which may be, at its full growth, of such value. An Arab tribe, which can bring but three or four hundred horse into the field, may perhaps be possessed of more than so many thousand camels, and triple that number of sheep and black cattle. But they rarely diminish their flocks by using them for food; for they live chiefly upon bread, milk, butter, dates, and what they receive in exchange for their wool. They have a curious way of dressing hares. A hole being dug in the ground, and the earth scooped out of it laid all round its edge, the brush-wood, with which it is filled, is set on fire; the hare is thrown, unskinned, into the hole, and afterwards covered up with the heated earth that was laid round about it, where it continues till it is thought to be sufficiently done. When sprinkled with salt, and brought to table, it is found to be very agreeable food.

Travellers in the East are obliged to carry with them large leather bottles, which they fill, from time to time, at a well, as they have an opportunity;

nity; but what is very extraordinary, in order to do this, they are obliged to carry buckets and lines with them; for the wells of inhabited countries, as well as in the deserts, have no implements for drawing of water. In how easy a light does this place the Samaritan woman's talking of the depth of Jacob's well, and her remarking that our Lord had nothing to draw with, though he spoke of presenting her with water.

Eastern journeys are often performed, on account of the heat, in the night. A caravan is divided into several companies, each of which has its name, and consists, perhaps, of several thousand camels. These animals are tied together, four a-breast, and each company moves after the other, like distinct troops. At the head of each is some great officer, who is carried in a kind of horse-litter, having a sumpter camel which carries his treasure, &c. This camel has two bells, hanging one on each side, the sound of which may be heard a great way off. Other camels have bells about their necks and legs. They say this music makes them brisk and lively. To direct their march in the night, they have a kind of iron stoves, fastened to the end of high poles, into which they put short, dry wood. Every company has one of these machines. They are carried in the front, and set up in the place where the caravan is to pitch, before it comes up, at some distance from one another. Thus each person knows to what company he

belongs, as soldiers do by their colours. Every morning they pitch their tents, and rest several hours. When the camels are unloaded, the owners drive them to water, and give them provender. More than three thousand years have made no alteration in the signal used to give notice for decamping. The Mecca caravan now moves upon blowing a trumpet: Moses made use of the same signal.

The presentation of gifts is a very universal custom in the East. And many things, besides money, may appear to us low and mean, unworthy the quality of those that offer them, or of those to whom they are presented. In what a light might an English fine lady place the present of a governor of an Egyptian village, who sent to a British consul fifty eggs, as a mark of respect, and that in a country where they are so cheap as to be sold at the rate of ten for a penny? An illustrious Arabian poet, in the ninth century, had so many presents made him in the course of his life, that at his death he was found possessed of an hundred complete suits of clothes, two hundred shirts, and five hundred turbans. It may appear very strange to us, that a present should be thought capable of inducing one prince to break with another, and engage himself in war; and yet we find that a Syrian nobleman, quarrelling with his master, the prince of Aleppo, and finding himself obliged to

seek

seek for foreign aid, sent presents to Godfrey of Bouillon, to induce him to assist him.

The eastern salutations differ considerably, according to the difference of rank of the persons saluted. The common salutation is laying the right hand on the bosom, and a little declining the body; but when they salute a person of great rank, they bow almost to the ground, and kiss the hem of his garment, his feet, his knees, or his hands. So our Lord represents a servant falling down at his master's feet. Jairus fell down at our Lord's feet when he begged he would go and heal his daughter: St. Peter fell at the knees of Jesus: and the woman, with the issue of blood, touched the hem of his garment. Kissing the feet is a very ancient ceremony in Persia, instituted as a mark of taking the oath of allegiance, by feadatory princes to their sovereigns. We have a very remarkable account of the behaviour of an eastern prince to his conqueror; he threw himself on the ground, and kissed the prints which his victorious enemy's horse had made there, reciting, at the same time, "The mark that the foot of your horse has left upon the dust, now serves me for a crown." Women kiss their husbands' beards; and children those of their fathers: and some of their benedictions are, "God preserve your blessed beard; God pour his blessings on your beard."

Riding on horseback is, amongst the Turks, accounted an honourable thing, and they ride in a very

very stately manner. No Christians, except consuls, are permitted to mount a horse; and one reason they assign is, that as our Saviour entered Jerusalem, meek and lowly, and sitting on an ass, we Christians ought to follow his example. It is contrary to the Turkish dignity to go, on horseback, faster than a foot pace, in the streets.

An Arab princess, going to visit another, is mounted on a camel, covered with a carpet, and decked with flowers. A dozen women march in a row before her, one leading the camel by a halter. They sing the praises of their mistress, and the happiness of being in the service of such a beautiful and amiable lady. Those who go first, come in their turns to hold the halter, which is the post of honour. When she arrives near the tent of the other princess, women are sent to meet her, to whom the halter is entirely resigned, out of respect, and her own women retire behind the camel.

The alighting of those on horseback is considered as an expression of deep respect. Thus Rebecca alighted from her camel, when Isaac came to meet her; and Naaman, the Syrian, alighted from his chariot, when Gehazi ran after him.

An Arab prince will often dine in the street, before his door, and call to all that pass, even beggars, in the usual expression of, "In the name of God, who will come and sit down?" for the Arabs never put by any thing that is brought to table. The picture then, which our Lord exhibits, of a king's

king's making a great feast, and, when the guests refused to come, sending for the poor, the maimed, and the blind, is not so unlike life, as perhaps you would imagine.

The approaching persons, with a sword hanging to the neck, is in the East thought to be a very humble and submissive coming before them. Thus a governor of Egypt appeared before his master, and prostrated himself on the ground three times, with his sword hanging to his neck, which, at the third prostration, he took off and laid down. This was a token of such respect as was thought proper for the conquered to pay the victor, when they begged their lives.

Adieu, my dear father, you will soon hear of us again.

Your dutiful son,

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

COLONEL WINTERTON, wishing to gratify his nephews in the pursuit of knowledge, accorded to their earnest wish of visiting Jerusalem. He therefore hired a boat to coast along the shores of Syria. A fine wind soon brought our travellers to Tyre, once the most celebrated city of Phœnicia. But how different its situation at present! The fury of war, and the ravages of time, have extinguished all remains of its ancient splendour. Our travellers walked about the ruins of the ancient cathedral, famous for containing the remains of the emperor Barbarossa, who died in 1190. "What a desolate spot!" exclaimed the colonel. "This city, which was once a merchant of the people for many isles, is now become a spoil to the nations, and made like the top of a rock!"

Hercules was the principal divinity of Tyre, whose temple fell a sacrifice to the avarice of Cæsar, on account of the generous hospitality exercised by the Tyrians to the unhappy wife of Pompey.

In the time of St. Paul, there was a great number of believers in Tyre; and afterwards, the church of Tyre became very famous. It afforded many

martyrs

martyrs for the Christian faith, and several illustrious bishops.

Mount Carmel, covered with wood, was the next object of our travellers' attention. "Is that the famous mountain," said Henry to his uncle, "so often mentioned in Scripture?" "It is," replied the colonel; "and at the foot of it runs the brook Kishon. Toward the sea is a cave, where some suppose the prophet Elisha desired Ahab to bring Baal's prophets, and where fire from heaven descended on his burnt sacrifice. It belonged to the tribe of Manasseh, and signifies the vineyard. Pythagoras delighted in wandering about Mount Carmel, where he meditated, and arranged his ideas, before he communicated them to the schools of Greece."

Colonel Winterton and his nephews stopped a few days at Cæsarea, where so many memorable events have occurred. Herod the Great dedicated the city to Cæsar, and gave a most magnificent fête on the occasion. Ambassadors and kings, and an innumerable crowd of strangers, were present. Each person was received, lodged, and treated according to his rank. During nine days the diversions continued, and ingenuity was exhausted in adding variety to the scene. In that famous city, Herod Agrippa left to posterity a terrible example of Divine vengeance. Inebriated by his success and the base adulations of his court, he was smitten by the Lord, for neglecting to give God the glory, when

when the people were so liberal to him of their flattery. St. Paul continued two years prisoner at Cæsarea, till he could be conveniently conducted to Rome, because he had appealed to Cæsar. As it was the residence of the governor of Judea, the persecuted Christians were carried there to receive sentence of death. Thousands suffered martyrdom under different emperors.

Many illustrious men are ranked amongst the archbishops of Cæsarea, particularly Eusebius, whose name is no less dear to literature and the sciences, than it is to religion.

Our travellers in vain sought for the ancient port which historians have styled another wonder of the world. Of the temple and fortress, built by Herod, scarcely any thing remains; and a few scattered columns now mark the former magnificence of its monuments.

The colonel and his nephews, on their arrival in Jaffa, were politely received by the superior of the convent, who took charge of their journey to Jerusalem, and recommended to them the greatest caution, as the road was infested with robbers.

Joppa (the modern Jaffa) is frequently mentioned, both in the Old and New Testament. Tabitha, whom St. Peter raised from the dead, dwelt at Joppa. Peter was at Joppa when God showed him a sheet, full of creeping things,—no longer making any distinction between Jew and Gentile,

if

if disposed to receive the word. In St. Jerome's time were shown, marks reported to be those of the chain by which Andromeda was fastened, when exposed to be devoured by the sea monster. It is probable that the fable of Andromeda was forged from Jonah's adventure, who having embarked at Joppa, was cast into the sea, and swallowed by a whale.

The superior of the convent having taken the colonel's money in deposit, and given him a letter of credit on the convent of Jerusalem, he advised our travellers to leave Jaffa on foot, adding that at a short distance they would find a convenient conveyance. After ascending the hill, they were surprised to see twenty or thirty asses waiting for the riders. A guide approached, and assigned to the colonel and his nephews their beasts. The caravan was soon completed, and they set off, escorted by three soldiers of the garrison. The country they traversed is called the plains of Sharon; a name almost proverbial to express a place of extraordinary beauty and fruitfulness. The annual produce of cucumbers is so abundant as to supply the coasts of Syria and the island Cyprus. The numerous flocks of David formerly covered those plains, and the king himself did not disdain being their shepherd.

The colonel and his nephews, after a short stay at Rama, continued their journey; having received additional caution from the monks. "You have," said they, "great risks to run. More than one party

party of Arabs may stop you, under pretence of asking charity; but do not answer any, and refuse them all. It is possible they may ill treat you; but you must bear all with resignation." Our travellers endeavoured to reconcile themselves to what might happen. On entering a narrow pass, four Arabs met them, and obliged them to slacken their pace. They addressed the colonel, but faithful to the advice he had received, he made no answer. They asked him again; but still he kept silence. That was interpreted as an insult. "This mute gentleman," said they, "by the faith of Mahommed, must be unhorsed." Such a sudden apostrophe determined the colonel to alter his resolution, and he gave them a trifle in money, which prevented any further molestation.

"What a melancholy thing it is," observed the colonel, "that fear must engage so much of the traveller's attention. These mountains claim our observation; the shrubs, the tufted trees, and the limpid streams, all render it an interesting journey. O, fatal despotism, thou chainest down the faculties of man, and renderest him an enemy to his race." After ascending some other mountains, our travellers came to the valley where David slew the giant of Gath. Nothing can be finer than the neighbouring hills, being covered with olives, fig-trees, vines, and different kinds of grain. On both sides, our travellers observed houses, churches, mosks, and different other buildings, half destroyed.

stroyed. When they had ascended the nearest mountain, with delight they beheld Jerusalem, that ancient city, which the miracles of our Saviour, and the bloody victories of Europeans, have rendered the most illustrious in the world.

Henry's letter to his sister will convey the best description of the objects which most attracted their attention.

MY DEAR SISTER, *Jerusalem.*

THE alterations made by time on the face of the earth, though considerable, are insignificant when compared with those produced by the labours of man. Mountains, rocks, and for the most part rivers also, remain not greatly changed from their ancient appearances, where only the lapse of ages has acted upon them; but where the exertions of human art, and the varying intentions of human labour have been directed, the changes made are striking, and their effect, in producing dissimilarity, is wonderful. Every city bears witness to the truth of this remark.

Those who attribute to any particular place the character of sanctity, will, no doubt, not only honour, but also adorn the subject of their consecration: they will dignify, all they can, the place of their devotion. But this very attention will excite enmity in others; and a place thus distinguished, will be distinguished also by the effects of that enmity: it will be attacked and defended, destroyed

destroyed and restored, with a resolution and perseverance, which establishments merely civil are not to expect. Such has been the lot of this very ancient city.

In the midst of a rocky and barren country, the walls inclosed the two mountains of Sion and Acra, within an oval figure of about three English miles. Towards the south, the upper town, and the fortress of David, were erected on the lofty ascent of Mount Sion; on the north side, the buildings of the lower town covered the spacious summit of Mount Acra; and a part of the hill, distinguished by the name of Moriah, and levelled by human industry, was crowned with the stately temple of the Jewish nation. The condition of Jerusalem in the time of Christ, was pretty much the same as afterwards, when assaulted by the Romans. The temple itself was a strong fortress. Since the reduction of the place by Pompey, experience taught the Jews new modes of fortification. By bribery they obtained permission to rebuild their walls. The strength of the works plainly showed that, in profound peace, they meditated future resistance. Under these circumstances, how very unlikely did the prophecy of our Lord appear to the Jews, every word of which opposes their confidence in these defences. For after the final destruction of the temple, a ploughshare was drawn over the consecrated ground, as a sign of perpetual interdiction. The desire of rebuilding the

the temple has, in every age, been the ruling passion of the children of Israel. The vain and ambitious mind of the Emperor Julian aspired to restore its ancient glory. In that propitious moment, spades and pickaxes of silver were provided by the vanity of the rich, and the rubbish was transported in mantles of silk and purple. Every purse was opened in liberal contributions; every hand claimed a share in the pious labour; and the commands of a great monarch were executed by the enthusiasm of a whole people.

Yet, on this occasion, the joint efforts of power and enthusiasm were unsuccessful. For during the execution of the work, horrible balls of fire breaking out near the foundations, with frequent and reiterated attacks, rendered the place, from time to time, inaccessible to the scorched workmen; and the victorious element continuing in this manner resolutely bent, as it were, to drive them to a distance, the undertaking was abandoned.

It would be endless, my dear sister, to enumerate the various revolutions which Jerusalem has undergone. About four hundred and sixty years after the conquest of Omar, the holy city was rescued from the Mahommedan yoke; and on a Friday, at three in the afternoon, the day and hour of the passion, Godfrey of Bouillon stood victorious on the walls of Jerusalem; and the unanimous voice of the army proclaimed him the first and most worthy of the champions of Christendom. His magnanimity

magnanimity accepted a trust as full of danger as of glory; but in a city where his Saviour had been crowned with thorns, the devout pilgrim rejected the name and ensigns of royalty; and the founder of the kingdom of Jerusalem contented himself with the modest title of Defender and Baron of the Holy Sepulchre.

In a period of two centuries, each spring and summer produced a new emigration of pilgrim warriors, for the defence of the Holy Land. During its short existence, the kingdom of Jerusalem was supported by the discord of the Turks and Saracens. But the powers of Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, were now united by a hero, whom nature and fortune had armed against the Christians; and the sultan Saladin appeared in arms before the gates of Jerusalem. He might expect, that the siege of a city, so venerable on earth and in heaven, so interesting to Europe and Asia, would rekindle the last sparks of enthusiasm; and that, of sixty thousand Christians, every man would be a soldier, and every soldier a candidate for martyrdom. Some feeble and hasty efforts only were made for the defence of the city; and in the space of fourteen days, twelve banners of the Prophet and the Sultan were erected on a breach in the walls.

Saladin consented to accept the city, and to spare the inhabitants. It was stipulated, that in forty days all the Franks and Latins should evacuate Jerusalem; and the Sultan made his triumphant entry

entry, his banners waving in the wind, and to the harmony of martial music. In four ivory chests, the patriarch had collected the crosses, the images, the vases, and the relics of the holy place. They were seized by the conqueror, who entrusted them to the patriarch of Antioch; and the pious pledge was redeemed by our King Richard, at the expence of fifty-two thousand pieces of gold. The memory of Richard was celebrated, in proverbial sayings, by the grandsons of the Turks and Saracens, against whom he had fought. His tremendous name was employed by the Syrians' mothers to silence their infants; and if a horse suddenly started from the way, his rider was wont to exclaim, "Dost thou think King Richard is in that bush?"

Of the seven crusades, the two last was undertaken by Lewis the Ninth, king of France, who lost his liberty in Egypt, and his life on the coast of Africa. In short, in the thirteenth century, the Latin principality in Palestine was extinguished. And ever since, the holy city, the holy temple, have been "trodden down by the Gentiles, till the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." And then this same spot, which at some periods has been so highly and singularly distinguished, though now degraded, shall again enjoy favours which shall render it conspicuous.

The superior of the convent gave us the kindest reception. He has taken our names, our nation,

and the object our journey, to inscribe them in a register of pilgrims, which is carefully preserved in the archives of the convent. Some religious ceremonies are practised towards travellers, which we could not politely dispense with. On the first night of our arrival, we were invited to attend vespers, and to follow the procession, each of us carrying a wax taper. The priests who officiated washed our feet, in the midst of orations and a *te deum* chanted by the choir. They afterwards conducted us back to our rooms, and begged us to keep the tapers, in commemoration of the holy pilgrimage.

The church of the Holy Sepulchre is only opened on holy days. All the religious orders, and the pilgrims, go there to celebrate the mysteries, under the protection of the governor, who sends a guard of soldiers. Of whatever religion one might be, I believe it would be difficult to repress the sentiments of awe and respect which are inspired by a sight of that august temple. Vast and dismal, it receives its greatest light from lamps suspended to the roof. The pillars are blackened, through a course of years. Not one ornament is to be seen on the walls. Every article set apart for holy purposes is of the greatest simplicity. In a word, it is what a temple ought to be; for the Deity only requires of man godliness of life and purity of heart.

All the Christian sects of the East have permission

permission to officiate in the church. They assemble on Palm Sunday, and each sect takes a chapel. The procession of the Greeks is particularly remarkable for a great number of standards, on which are represented the mysteries of the Passion. The patriarch officiates on that day, accompanied by the bishops and priests, who carry flambeaux and olive-branches. At the close of the procession, the people break the branches and tread them under foot.

You cannot easily imagine the discord and confusion produced by seven or eight different sects. Each sings in a different tone, and in their national language. Add to this a frightful noise, made by rattling large iron chains together, on tables made of beech, which serve the purpose of bells. Though the church is not one hundred yards long, it is supposed to contain twelve or thirteen places, consecrated by some particular actions, relating to our Lord's death and resurrection. It is erected on *Mount Calvary*, which being anciently appropriatad to the execution of malefactors, was shut out of the city as a polluted place. But since Christ died upon it, for the sins of the world, the city has been built around it. Thus the very situation is altered; for Mount Sion, the highest part of old Jerusalem, is now excluded.

The Holy Sepulchre is a kind of small chamber, almost square within. The entrance, which

looks towards the east, is but four feet high. The place where the body of our Saviour was laid, takes up one third of the cave. It is a stone raised from the ground, and placed lengthways from east to west. We have seen the office of the holy fire, a ceremony kept up by the Greeks and Armenians, from a persuasion that on every Easter eve a miraculous flame descends from heaven into the Holy Sepulchre, and lights all the lamps and candles. Nothing can be imagined more rude and extravagant than what was acted upon this occasion. After a hideous clamour from a distracted crowd, and a procession three times round the sepulchre, a pigeon came fluttering over it, to deceive the people into the belief that it was a visible descent of the Holy Ghost. Soon after the patriarch approached the door of the sepulchre, and breaking the seal, entered in, all the candles and lamps within having been before extinguished. The miracle-worker had not been above a minute in the sepulchre, when the glimmering of the holy fire was seen, through some chinks in the door. Presently came out the priests, with blazing torches; while the people thronged, with extraordinary zeal, to obtain a part of the first and purest flame. So many tapers were presently lighted, that the church seemed in a blaze; and this illumination concluded the ceremony.

But

But the most remarkable ceremony begins on Good Friday night, and is observed with extraordinary solemnity. As soon as it grows dark, all the monks and pilgrims assemble, to go round the church in procession; but before this, a sermon is preached, on the darkness at the crucifixion, and all the candles put out, to give a more lively image of the occasion. A crucifix, as large as life, is carried at the head of the procession, and all the company follow to the several sanctuaries, singing at every one a hymn. They next proceed to *Calvary*, and another sermon is preached. After the crucifix is set up, the Father Guardian, seating himself in a chair before it, delivers a discourse on the Passion.

Near the hole where the cross is fixed, is seen a cleft in the rock, said to be made by the earthquake at our Saviour's death.

The ceremony of the Passion being over, two monks, representing Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, take down the feigned body from the cross, which is received in a winding sheet; and after being strewed with sweet powders and spices, and a funeral sermon preached, it is laid in the sepulchre, shutting up the door till Easter morning. The sepulchre is then set open very early, and the monks put on a face of joy and serenity, as if it was the real juncture of our Lord's resurrection.

I must now bid you adieu, my dear sister, as we are going to see some of the remarkable places. Believe me,

Your affectionate brother,

HENRY.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIII.

THE colonel and his nephews, having engaged one of the monks to accompany them, first visited an Armenian church, built over the place where they say St. James was beheaded. In it are two altars, adorned with crosses of gold and silver, crowns, rich mitres, chalices, and other church utensils. In the middle of the church is a pulpit, curiously inlaid with tortoise-shell and mother of pearl. From thence they went to a small chapel, where is shown the stone that lay at the door of our Saviour's sepulchre. Our travellers were next led into a garden, at the foot of Mount Moriah, where are several large vaults, supported with tall pillars. Going out of the city, they walked on to the place anciently called the *Potter's Field*, and afterwards the *Field of Blood*. A little below is a cave, consisting of several rooms, in which the apostles are said to have hid themselves, when they forsook their master.

The colonel and his nephews devoted one morning to visiting the most remarkable places of Mount Olivet. As they ascended the mountain, they saw caves cut with intricate windings under ground, and called the Sepulchres of the Prophets. A little higher up are twelve vaults, built in a row,

in memory of the twelve apostles. Our travellers next came to the place where they were told Christ uttered his prophecy concerning the destruction of the city. "This view of Jerusalem," said the colonel, "is so near, that when our Saviour was here, he might be said, almost in a literal sense, to have wept *over* it." At the top of the mount was, anciently, a large church, built in honour of our Lord's ascension. From thence the colonel and his nephews had a view of Jerusalem, with the adjacent country, and the Dead Sea.

As they descended the mount, they came to a narrow piece of ground, said to be the path on which Judas walked up to Christ, and, saying *hail Master*, kissed him. It is remarkable that this narrow path is separated by a wall, built by the Turks, from the adjoining garden, who, as well as the Christians, detest the ground on which that infamous piece of treachery was acted.

Our travellers next proceeded to the place where they were told the palace of Pilate stood; but on the spot is only at present an ordinary Turkish house, from the terrace of which they had a full view of the place where the temple stood, and that is the only prospect of it that is allowed; for whatever Christian goes within the borders of that ground, must forfeit his life, or his religion. "What a fine spot!" exclaimed William, "a fitter place for an august building could not be found in the whole world. But what Turkish

Turkish fanaticism! that delights in tormenting strangers of a different religion; and on the very spot where good will towards men was preached." "It is very true," replied the colonel; "but why blame so much the ignorant Mussulmans? Do you not know that the Catholics treat the Jews with more indignity? What plausible reason can be assigned why the Pope, who styles himself the Vicar of Christ, should condemn the poor Jews to wear a piece of yellow cloth on their hats, which draws down on them the derision of the vulgar? And yet the Holy See pretends to infallibility!"

Our travellers having made an excursion to the river Jordan and the Dead Sea; on their return, William sent an account of it to his mother, in the following letter.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Jerusalem.*

MY uncle having been so kind as to indulge us with a sight of the Dead Sea, I could not think of quitting the Holy Land without sending you an account of our expedition. About two miles from the city we crossed the celebrated valley of Jehosaphat, and passing through Bethany, descended into a narrow pass, which the elevation of two mountains rendered singularly dark and dismal. The lights which we perceived at a distance gave us some alarm. As they approached, our fears increased, and we began to imagine that a

banditti were coming to plunder the caravan. Many of them endeavoured to scale the mountains. Fortunately, it was only an imaginary panic. One of the soldiers of our escort advanced to meet them, and discovered them to be a company of Turkish women, guarded by two hundred Arabs, who were coming from a pilgrimage to a mosk, built on the coast of the Dead Sea. As they apprehended, likewise, that we might be an enemy, they put themselves on the defensive. However, our fears being mutually dispelled, we passed and wished one another a good journey.

What a vast solitude soon opened before us! nothing but rocks, heath, and uncultivated valleys. I am not astonishsd that the inhabitants of such a spot should be ferocious. Wherever the soil is sterile and ungrateful, man is gloomy and covetous of pillage. The first sentiment which arises in his mind is that of suffering. Hunger raises his hands against the traveller, and he is only happy when an assassination has rendered him master of the spoils of a fellow creature. Soon after we had entered the plain of Jericho, we came to Mount Quarantaine, where the caravan halted. This mountain lies to the north of Jericho, and is perfectly devoid of shrubs, grass, or earth. It is nothing but a block of marble. The mountains of Arabia, the land of the Ammonites, the plains of Moab and Jericho, the river Jordan, and the whole expanse of the Dead Sea were displayed to our sight.

It

It is a venerable spot, and takes its name from the rigorous fast which our Saviour observed there, after he had triumphed over the powers of darkness. In commemoration of the event, a chapel was formerly built on the summit. There are many grottos cut in different parts, which have been the habitations of anchorites. In one we saw painted on the walls the figures of the twelve apostles. After satisfying our curiosity, we quited that frightful spot, which is now abandoned to vultures and bats.

We next halted at the fountain of Elisha, under the shade of a very thick tree. The spring is so abundant that it formerly supplied several mills.

Jericho was the first city of the land of Canaan, which fell into the hands of the Israelites, after their entrance into the promised land. Every one knows the remarkable occurrence of the walls falling down before the ark of the covenant. Then Joshua said, "Cursed be the man before the Lord, who shall rebuild *Jericho*." Hiel of Bethel, about 537 years after this, undertook to rebuild Jericho. Its splendour and commerce were restored, and it maintained a flourishing state for many centuries. Herod built a very beautiful palace there; and our Saviour wrought miracles at Jericho. The Emperor Vespasian afterwards plundered it, and cut in pieces every one who opposed his fury. It was again restored by the Christians, and made

the see of a bishop; but in the twelfth century its destruction was completed.

The plain of Jericho forms a semi-circle, by the disposition of the mountains. The river Jordan, which flows towards the east, separates it from the country of the Moabites. Its length is about twenty miles, and it is ten in breadth. Many formidable citadels anciently stood on it. It is still covered with fine crops of wheat and barley, which begin to ripen towards the end of April.

One night, about twelve o'clock, we received orders to hold ourselves in readiness to proceed to the banks of the Jordan. It was a fine sight, on account of the number of iron boxes, suspended on javelins, in which fir or any other resinous wood is burnt. Thus all persons of distinction travel in the night. A fine plain opened before us, where the tents were to be pitched. Two temporary altars were erected, and mass celebrated. The first rays of the sun began to gild the summit of the neighbouring mountains, the clouds dispersed, and the radiance of the over-arching heavens filled my heart with joy and gratitude. There the pilgrim fulfils his vow. His only end, in undertaking the journey, is to contemplate the holy and miraculous waters, to drink of them and wash in them; because, he says, they purify the mind and body. The Greeks imagine, that it is impossible to be well baptized without having been plunged three times

times in the river. Thus, men, women, and children indiscriminately jump in, with an eagerness bordering on madness.

The visible origin of the Jordan is a little stream, whose source is in Mount Libanus. The other and most considerable source is a lake, about twelve miles south of Cæsarea Philippi. After a course of seven miles, it falls into the lake Semechon, which is nearly dry in the summer. From thence it enters, and passes through, the lake of Tiberias. Afterwards it takes the name of the Greater Jordan, and receives in its passage many other streams and torrents. After a course of sixty five miles, from the lake of Tiberias, it falls into the Dead Sea. The banks are covered with rushes, reeds, willows, and other trees. At the melting of the snows, or during the rainy season, it overflows its banks to a distance of more than four miles. At all times it is so rapid, that a good swimmer could not cross it; and I believe it would be even dangerous to pass it in a boat, without the mantle of Elisha. Francis I. Grand Duke of Tuscany, was baptized with water expressly brought from the Jordan. It is astonishing that in an age when the nobility held themselves so superior to the rest of mankind, that they did not think of baptizing their children with some privileged water, which would have marked the distinction from their very birth.

In a country governed by despotism, we must submit

submit to the laws of avarice and force. The governor not being ashamed of exacting an arbitrary sum of money from pilgrims, who are curious to observe the remarkable places in the neighbourhood, we were forced to make an agreement with him for an escort of four men, to defend us in case of necessity. After travelling about three miles, we came to a ruined church, which piety has consecrated to St. Jerome, in token of the days of penitence and solitude he passed there. For three miles further we saw no trace of inhabitants. The eye loses itself in a plain, which only requires the labour of the cultivator to render it fruitful. Several streams run through it, which uniting in one bed, fall into the Dead Sea. The name of *Dead Sea* is not in the text of Scripture. It was called by the ancients Asphaltides: the name of the *Eastern Sea* was also given to it, because of its situation, being opposite to the *Western Sea*, or the Mediterranean. But it is more properly a lake, and has taken possession of that part of the country which was formerly occupied by the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim. Its circumference is one hundred and eighty miles. The high mountains of the land of Moab surround it to the eastward. It is also bounded to the west and south by high black mountains, which serve as a barrier to the vast deserts of Judea.

The waters are clear, but bitter, and excessively salt. They produce no kind of fish; those even

which

which are sometimes brought down by the rapidity of the Jordan, die there instantly. Large pieces of bitumen float on the surface, which are collected by the Arabs, who carry them to Damascus. We could not learn any thing with regard to the fruit called the apples of Sodom. On the western shore are natural salt pits, much used by the Arabs. All the surrounding country is inhabited by the Bedoween Arabs, who are always in a state of warfare.

We returned the same way by which we came, but instead of entering Jerusalem, determined to extend our tour to Bethlehem. We therefore turned down into the valley of Jehosaphat, and passing by the city, went through the valley of Rephaim, famous for being the theatre of David's victories over the Philistines. On our arrival at Bethlehem, so glorious on account of the Messiah's birth, which was appointed to be in it, we immediately went to all the holy places: as that where our Lord is said to have been born; the manger in which he was laid; the chapel of Joseph, and that of the Innocents. Each of the convents has a door that opens into the chapel of the Holy Manger, and near them we were shown the grotto of the Virgin, where she is said to have hid herself and her divine babe, in order to escape the fury of Herod. St. Jerome informs us, that the Emperor Hadrian, to erase the memory of the place where Christ

Christ was born, planted over the spot a grove of tall trees, in honour of Adonis.

The cathedral of St. Mary, said to have been built by Constantine the Great and his mother Helena, is a fine building. It is divided into five ailes, supported by beautiful pillars; the chapters are of the Corinthian order, and exquisitely sculptured. The piers of the columns of the principal aile are of cedar of Libanus, worked in foliage and arabesques. The windows are full of painted glass, representing different events in sacred history. Baldwin I. was crowned there king of Jerusalem, and enriched the church with considerable presents. In 1672 it underwent new reparations to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds, which a Greek merchant at Constantinople paid, under a promise that the church should beatify him after his death.

Bethlehem owes all its riches to superstition. No other trade is carried on there, but that of making crowns and wooden crosses, ornamented with mother of pearl. These articles are sent to Venice, and from thence dispersed all over Europe. To increase their value, the purchasers are always taught to believe that they are made of the wood of the true cross. From that probably arose the saying, "that in Europe there is wood enough of the true cross to build two men of war." In short, that city bears but a bad name. The inhabitants

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are accused of perfidy and rapine, and the women are dissolute and deceitful.

So many difficulties and dangers attend a traveller through the Holy Land, that he is in too much haste, to make many curious observations on the country. We could not, however, help remarking the fine plants and the quantity of game of all kinds. Adieu, my dear mother,

Your dutiful son,

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

OUR travellers, on their return to Jaffa, fortunately met with a vessel bound to Cyprus. They therefore agreed with the captain for a passage, and a favourable gale soon brought the ship to an anchor in the port of Famagusta.

Cyprus was known to the Jews by the name of Chetim, which it took from Noah's great nephew, who is said to have received it, as his portion, at the division of lands. Amongst the Greeks it had a variety of names; one of them was Paphia, whence Venus, who was worshipped in the island, was styled the Paphian goddess; and poets have always dignified it as the seat of the Graces. It holds a high rank in classic learning, having given birth to some great philosophers and poets; particularly Zeno, the founder of the sect of Stoics. It formerly contained nine kingdoms. After being tributary to Egypt, it was seized and plundered by the Romans, about fifty-eight years before the Christian æra. That act is reckoned the most flagrant piece of injustice their republic was ever guilty of. The virtuous and rigid Cato was made the tool to execute the decree of the senate; and the treasure which he carried to Rome, the following year, is stated at one million, three hundred and

and fifty-six thousand, two hundred and fifty pounds sterling. During the declining years of the Roman empire it was often ravaged by the Arabs.

In the year 1191, the English squadron which had sailed for the Holy Land, was driven on the coast of Cyprus, and some of the vessels wrecked; on board one were King Richard the First's sister, and his future queen. Isaac, prince of the island, pillaged the ships that were stranded, threw the seamen and passengers into prison, and even refused to the princesses liberty, in their dangerous situation, of entering the harbour of Limisso. But Richard, who arrived soon after in another squadron, disembarked his troops, entered Limisso by storm, obliged Isaac to surrender at discretion, and established governors over the island. The Greek prince, being thrown into prison and loaded with irons; complained of the little regard with which he was treated. Richard, therefore, ordered *silver* fetters to be made for him; and the prince, pleased with the distinction, expressed a sense of the generosity of his conqueror.

The year following the king conferred Cyprus on the Lusignan family, as a compensation for the loss of Jerusalem. The princes of that house, who held it for seventeen generations, divided it into twelve provinces, each having its chief city; besides which, there were no fewer than eight hundred

hundred villages. In 1489, it devolved to the Venetians, who maintained their dominion over it till 1571, when it was taken by the Turks, after a loss of more than seventy thousand men.

Our travellers having passed some time in the island, their excursions furnished ample matter for a letter. Henry wrote as follows to his sister.

MY DEAR SIBELLA, *Cyprus.*

AS the branches of an empire, most remote from the seat of government, are always more despotically governed than those nearer the source of redress, Cyprus has been continually ruled with a rod of iron since it came into the hands of the Turks. They have spread ruin and desolation over the country, and it is now so thinly inhabited that half the lands lie uncultivated. Famagusta is nothing but a heap of ruins; the number of churches destroyed is astonishing. In the arsenal are preserved all kinds of arms, used in the time of the Christian princes; but the doors and windows are walled up, to prevent the people, in case of insurrection, from procuring means of defence. The citadel is used as a state prison. There is no trade carried on in Famagusta, and it scarcely contains at present two hundred inhabitants; but as many vessels put in to refit, the European nations have an agent, who is generally some Turk, in their confidence. During a ten month's siege, the Turks threw five hundred and forty thousand bombs into

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that devoted city, which still lay in heaps in the gardens, and in the neighbouring fields. You may judge of the intrepidity of the besieged by the number of Turks killed; the garrison scarcely consisted of four thousand men, and the Turks lost seventy-five thousand.

Salamis, of which nothing remains to give us an idea of its original state, was the birth-place of many an illustrious personage. In the neighbourhood we visited an ancient church, dedicated to St. Barnabas; who, assisted by St. Paul, first preached the word of God at Salamis. We were shown the tomb where the body of Barnabas was said to have been found, in the year 488; with a copy of the gospel of St. Matthew lying on his breast, written by himself.

We staid a few days at Nicosia, situated in the centre of the island, in the middle of an extensive plain. When in the hands of the Venetians, it was the seat of the nobility, who adorned it with handsome churches, sumptuous palaces, convents, and other buildings. The year 1570 was fatal to the city. The Turkish general entered it, at the head of one hundred thousand foot and ten thousand horse; and every thing was devoted to fire and sword. The cathedral of St. Sophia is a fine Gothic structure: it contains the tombs of the Lusignan family, and of the Venetian nobles.

The church of St. Nicholas is now made a house of merchandise. The principal Turkish, Greek, and

and Armenian merchants, assemble there. On beholding the busy throng in that ancient temple, we were forcibly struck with the singular succession of events, which places the conquerors in the room of the conquered; converts a church into an exchange; and renders a hallowed spot, devoted to peace, meditation, and prayer, the centre of all the little sordid interests of man.

Piscopia is one of the most flourishing places on the island, and in a charming situation. It abounds with fruit trees of all kinds, and numerous springs of water run through the plains. The disposition of the inhabitants partakes of the amenity of the situation, for they are the most animated and amiable of any in the kingdom. On the southern coast stood ancient Paphos, which contained the celebrated temple of Venus. In that city, St. Paul converted, by his eloquence, the Roman governor.

Cyprus, my dear sister, is no longer the country favoured by nature, and fostered by the smiles of genius; it is no longer the enchanting climate, where, under a pure and serene sky, children were nursed in the cradle of the fine arts; where those eloquent voices were heard, whose powerful charms inflamed all hearts with patriotism and the enthusiasm of liberty: it is now the triumph of ignorance. Every thing bears the yoke of despotism; and the sable goddess of night has stretched

stretched her sceptre over a kingdom once so famed.

The most peculiar production of the island is the asbestos, which is of a fibrous texture, and generally of an olive-green colour. The ancients took advantage of its incombustibility, and manufactured it into cloth, to collect the ashes of their kings, and for the construction of perpetual wicks for lamps.

There is one dreadful mischief to which Cyprus is subject: in the hot season, locusts come from the continent in swarms so thick, as to darken the sky. They would certainly devour all the fruits of the earth, if they were not driven to sea by the north wind, that usually blows at the time of their coming. The want of a plentiful fall of rain, at proper periods, is particularly distressing. We are told of two most astonishing long droughts, which have happened in this island; one of seventeen, and another of thirty-six years. The inhabitants abandoned the island; and one must imagine that every tree and plant would have perished. It is said that no country produces grapes equal in size to those of this island. And what idea must we have of the vines, when Pliny relates that the stairs of the temple of Diana, at Ephesus, were made of one single stock of a Cyprus vine. The wine is universally known throughout Europe; it will keep more than eighty years. The vintage begins at the end of August, and lasts about six weeks.

weeks. Then is the season of joy; and rural dances close the labours of the day. But the vintage is scarcely finished, before the emissaries of government gain intelligence of the best stored cellars, and then imperiously enjoin the proprietors to deliver to them some casks of his choicest wine.

Cotton grows in such abundance, that it forms one of the principal revenues of the island. The pomegranates are so fine, that the inhabitants, to testify their superior excellence, say that they were planted by the hand of Venus herself. Different kinds of precious stones, such as emeralds, agates, opals, &c. are also found in various parts. The cultivation of the island produces a sufficient quantity of corn, unless in bad seasons; in which case they are easily supplied from the continent. Many parts of the country abound with wild-fowl, and several sorts of game; and fish is caught in abundance on the coasts.

You may easily judge of the oppression of the Turks, by the resolution which the Greeks took, some years ago, of making themselves Turks, to be freed from the tyranny. They tried every means in their power to accomplish it, but the governor would not consent. It would have been too great a loss to the grand signor; for then they would have been exempt, like other Turks, from the annual tribute which every Christian is obliged to pay for the liberty of wearing his head on his shoulders

shoulders one year longer. In short, the poor Greeks groan under the tyranny of a barbarous, despotic abuse of delegated power.

Adieu, my dear sister, and believe me,

Your affectionate

HENRY.

On leaving Nicosia, the party travelled a long way through the tombs raised by the Turks to their countrymen: the ruins of that ancient capital have generally been employed in the construction of those sepulchral monuments. At some distance, they crossed two branches of the river Pedicus, whose bed is covered with small pebbles of red jasper. The difficulty of ascending the mountains, which cross the island from east to west, was amply repaid by the delightful view which our travellers enjoyed. The sea of Caramania, and the whole northern coast of the island, is expanded before one. Add to this a fine sky, and a clear atmosphere, which developes every object. After descending the mountains, they entered a valley, intersected with rivulets, and studded with those flowers which are raised with so much difficulty in European gardens.

At the distance of twenty miles from the capital stands the village and citadel of Cerines. The inhabitants are mostly labourers. It is the most fertile part of the island. The citadel stands on an immense rock; and in the fifteenth century

maintained a memorable siege during two years. At the adjoining port, all persons embark, going and coming from Caramania.

Colonel Winterton, not meeting with a vessel bound to Candia, hired a Greek brig for the passage. The first day they enjoyed the finest weather imaginable, and a fair wind conducted them straight to the wished-for harbour. But in the night, the wind changed, and blew with great violence. For three days they continued tacking, but in vain. The vessel was a bad sailer, and the crew extremely ignorant of navigation. The captain had neither quadrant nor chart on board, and knew not how to measure the rate at which they sailed. When the sky was clouded, he guided himself by the compass, as well as he could; and by night, the glittering of the stars directed his course. "Does not this remind us," said the colonel, "of the ancient Greek pilots. I should imagine that our captain had been at the siege of Troy; and that one of the deities of fable has restored him to life, with a design to convince us that the endless wanderings of Homer's heroes are not improbable."

On the fifth day the weather cleared up, and they continued to run towards the land, which had been discovered from the mast-head. As the vessel approached, the captain recognized Mount Ida, in Candia. The certainty of this animated every heart with joy. Objects gradually enlarged

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to their view; and they could now distinguish mountains, hills, and promontories. After weathering one of the capes, the town of Canea opened upon them; and the anchor was soon let go in the harbour.

Canea is the second place in the island, and the residence of a basha. They reckon about one thousand five hundred Turks, two thousand Greeks, and a few Jews. There are two or three French mercantile houses, and a consul of the same nation. The port would be a very good one, but the Turks suffer it to remain choaked up with sand. Still are to be seen the ruins of a noble arsenal, built by the Venetians. The entrance of the port is defended by a small fortress, where there is a light-house. The houses are very ordinary; the best being but two stories high, of which the first serves for a parlour, warehouse, cellar, and stable. The second story has an open balcony to the south, where they retire when the wind is in the north; and when the southerly winds, so dangerous throughout the Levant, begin to be felt, they open their windows to the north. The gardens about this city, like all others in Turkey, are planted without order, symmetry, or neatness. Our travellers walked to the governor's garden, which they found to be only a plantation of orange trees, lemons, and cedars, intermixed with plum, pear, and cherry trees. The gardener, a poor, miserable wretch, was a Greek monk; he presented them

with some branches full of fruit, which were spungy and bitter. These trees are so neglected, that the fruit is always very poor; and grafting is unknown to the Turks.

As our travellers visited most parts of this island, we shall introduce William's account of their expedition, in a letter to his father.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Candia.*

HAVING explored great part of this island, and finding an opportunity of forwarding a letter to England, I shall endeavour to entertain you with our tour, which we have just concluded. Having recovered from the fatigues of our perilous passage from Cyprus, and finding little at Canea to amuse or instruct, my uncle determined to visit different parts of this celebrated spot. Our first object was Retimo, the third place in the island. This town has a more gay appearance than Canea, though it is smaller. The walls are more proper to inclose a park for deer, than to keep out an enemy. The citadel stands on a high rock, stretching into the sea, and would be of great strength, were it not commanded by another rock. The harbour is entirely neglected. Ships of war used formerly to be laid up here, below the citadel; but at present there is scarcely water sufficient for small craft. The country is all rock on the western side; but the road to Candia is very delightful. Along the shore we saw nothing but gardens: the fruits

are

are better tasted; and the silk, wool, honey, oils, &c. are preferred to all others. The water, which supplies the town, gushes out of a narrow valley, and is conveyed by a canal. On the road leading to the valley there is a handsome mosk: in the court-yard is a house of reception, where travellers, who arrive after the gates of the town are shut, or who design to set out before they are opened, may lodge and find provisions gratis. The malmsy wine of Retimo was in great esteem when the Venetians held the island; but we could not procure a drop of it. As we carried provisions with us, we one day dined under a fine plane-tree, by a running stream, on our way to Candia. We collected some fine plants. At night we took up our quarters in a large town, the access to which was by steps cut in the rock, very dangerous for horses to ascend; but our guides showed us the way, by making their ponies mount with astonishing boldness. We were conducted to the house of a Greek priest, where we refreshed ourselves to our hearts' desire. The town is encompassed with low hills, of a charming verdure: the olive-trees and vines afforded a delightful prospect, among small plantations of mulberry and fig-trees. Passing through a rugged, barren country, we arrived, the next day, at Candia.

On the 11th of May, 1667, began the famous siege of this city, by an army of seventy thousand Turks, provided with every necessary for the at-

attack of such a place, and furnished with cannon, some of which carried balls of one hundred and twenty pounds weight. So certain were the Turks of speedy success, that great preparations were made at Constantinople, for rejoicings and illuminations on the capture of Candia: but that place resisted the most furious and repeated attacks with heroic firmness; and the vizier was obliged to continue the whole of the winter in the trenches. A second year passed in the repetition of the same furious attacks, and the same obstinate resistance. By continual supplies of men and ammunition, the Turks were still enabled to press forward, and at length carried the outworks of the Venetians. Candia soon after capitulated; and in this celebrated siege, it is computed that forty thousand Christians, and nearly one hundred and twenty thousand Turks, were destroyed. The Turks have repaired the injuries which it then suffered. Its walls are in good condition, and defended by deep ditches, but not protected by any exterior fort. Towards the sea it has no attacks to fear; because the shallowness of the harbour renders it inaccessible to ships of war.

Candia is the seat of the government; which is generally committed to a basha of three tails. The principal officers, and several bodies of the Ottoman soldiery, are stationed there. This city, which was embellished by the Venetians with regular streets, handsome houses, a fine square, and a magnificent

nificent cistern, contains, at present, but a small number of inhabitants. Several divisions of the city are deserted. The market place is the only one which discovers any stir of business, or show of affluence. Most of the Christian temples have been converted into mosks; yet they have left two churches to the Greeks, one to the Armenians, and a synagogue to the Jews: and the Capuchins possess a small convent, with a chapel. The harbour, naturally a fine bason, in which ships are securely sheltered from every storm, is every day filling up; the trade of Candia, therefore, is considerably decayed. For the space of two miles round the walls, there is not a single tree to be seen. The Turks cut them all down in the time of the siege, and laid waste the gardens and orchards. The neighbouring hills are overspread with vineyards, which produce the malmsy of Mount Ida; a species of wine of a fine flavour, of a very pleasant relish, and highly esteemed in the island.

From hence we proceeded to the ruins of Gnossus, which was the royal city of Minos, and the seat of his empire. Here he promulgated those admirable laws, the wisdom of which was the boast and glory of antiquity. In the thirteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Nero, this city was laid in ruins by a violent shock of an earthquake, and its pride is still buried in the dust. Continuing our journey, we reached the high hills which are ad-

joining to the foot of Mount Ida, on the east side, where we enjoyed a most delightful prospect of rich, smiling vales; villages situated on the banks of rivulets, and encircled with fine orchards, with tufts of green trees crowning the rising hills. As we were ascending a steep path, our guides pointed out to us a heap of large stones, half mouldered away, which they called the "Tomb of Jupiter." Here we met a country wedding, going to a neighbouring farm-house. A number of Greeks, mounted on horses and mules, were conducting the bride, who rode in the midst of a little troop of handsome girls. Their long white veils fell gracefully on their shoulders. The men wore glittering sashes. All was sprightliness and gaiety. After saluting them, we parted. Descending into the plain, we found the country very picturesque, broken into deep valleys, adorned with fruit-trees and shrubs. In the evening we arrived at the monastery of St. George. As soon as we dismounted, some boys took our horses by the bridles, and walked them about before leading them into the stable. This practice is regularly observed all over the island. The horses are strong, healthy, and indefatigable. The Greek monks of St. George possess an extensive tract of land, on which they graze numerous flocks: it also produces plenty of corn, barley, wine, oil, wax, and honey. The Turks have left those lands in their possession, on condition that they entertain travellers.

lers. This they generally do, very handsomely. We had a magnificent supper. A roasted pig occupied the middle of the table; around it were chickens, pigeons, and mutton. There were, besides, several dishes of pomegranates, almonds, figs, olives, and honey. The wines were exquisite, and all produced from the grapes which grew on the hills around the monastery. My uncle was respectfully shown into a private apartment, where two full bottles stood near the bed. In the morning, meaning to wash his mouth, he took some of the contents of one of the bottles, but it proved to be white wine; he tried the other, but it was filled with spirits. These good fathers seem to have a custom, either of making libations to the god of sleep, or else of consoling themselves with the bottle, when he sternly denies his favours.

We continued our journey, next morning, through a rich and populous country, lying between two ranges of hills, down whose sides poured a number of fine streams. Here flocks of goats and sheep were cropping the heath, or browsing on the leaves of wild shrubs; and there a farm-house, encircled with vines, stood on the summit of a rock, or half concealed in the depth of a wood. On all sides we were entertained with a variety of pleasing objects. About noon we reached a large town, the inhabitants of which are said to be somewhat disposed to pillage travellers. We procured, with difficulty, some eggs, olives, honey,

and bad cheese. At our departure, we were loaded with reproachful epithets; but the naked sabres of our janissaries caused them to make a quick retreat. We soon discovered the remains of Gortynia, and passed some time in examining them.

The ruins of this city, which cover a large space of ground, gave us high ideas of its ancient splendour. We took notice of one of the city gates, built of large bricks, that had been formerly faced with stones. Beyond this, we observed a double row of pedestals, forming a long square. Columns of marble and granite, with their capitals, lay scattered about. On the banks of the river formerly called Lethe, we entered a half-ruined church, probably the ancient cathedral founded by Titus, the disciple of St. Paul. But we are naturally led to think, that its finest marbles have been carried away; and that most of its ornaments are sunk below the surface, which is considerably elevated. At present, the husbandman covers with crops of corn the ruins of the palaces and temples of Gortynia. Such is the fate of ancient cities: they are the work of man, and they perish like himself. This city is said to have been built by Taurus, who carried off Europa, which he named after his mother. Homer mentions it as a powerful city. From hence we ascended a rough and steep hill, for near an hour, and arrived at the mouth of the famous labyrinth of the Minotaur. We had with us the thread of Ariadne;

Ariadne; or, what was to serve the same purpose, a rope about four hundred fathoms long, one end of which we tied to the door. To conduct us through this dark recess, each held a blazing torch in his hand; and two Greeks carried the clew of the rope, which they unrolled, or wound up, occasionally. We ascended by a narrow passage, for about a hundred yards, on our hands and knees: afterwards, we were able to walk upright. The passages were generally about seven feet high, and from six to ten broad; and are all cut out of the rock. After passing through one division, we still entered another. But it is impossible to enumerate or describe, the variety or complication of these winding paths. We were often stopped at the end of a passage, where the opening extended no further. And sometimes, after long windings, we were surprised to find ourselves again at the place from which we had last set out. After wandering through all the openings and inflexions of the labyrinth, we entered a kind of large hall, ornamented with a variety of inscriptions, done by different travellers. We continued three hours walking about this subterraneous wilderness, which is perfectly dry. Thousands of bats were the only monsters we discovered in it. I assure you, we were highly delighted to get out and breathe the fresh air. The most probable opinion respecting this labyrinth is, that it served as a prison. Nature had drawn the plan, and formed the outlines. The

passages were afterwards enlarged, and several new ones cut out. I need not repeat the fable of Theseus and Ariadne. In several other countries there were similar labyrinths, more or less intricate. Our next object was to ascend the celebrated Mount Ida; but as I find that I shall extend my letter too far, I shall beg my brother to favour you with our remaining observations on this island. I must therefore bid you adieu for the present. Believe me,

Yours, dutifully,

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

NOT to interrupt the thread of our narrative; we shall introduce Henry's letter to his sister.

MY DEAR SIBELLA, *Candia.*

I AM delighted with the opportunity of once more addressing you; and shall therefore continue the description of our tour through Candia, so well known in former ages by the name of Crete. What can I say of a country inhabited by Turks, if I am to confine myself to what I see of it in its present condition? Almost their whole life is passed in sipping coffee, smoking, and eating rice: what is all this to us? The objects which most attract travellers, you know, are the antiquities, natural history, productions, and commerce of these celebrated countries. You will, therefore, allow me to insert a few touches of erudition, to heighten the subjects, and make them less tiresome. Ulysses, describing this island, says:

"Crete awes the circling waves, a fruitful soil!
"And ninety cities crown the sea-born isle."

Minos, king of this island, was esteemed the wisest legislator of antiquity. His laws were adopted

adopted by Greece, for they were founded on the solid basis of reason and equity. The Cretans cultivated dancing with amazing ardour; and it was scarce less dishonourable for a Cretan to neglect the military dances, than to desert his post in battle. Those princes and states who knew their valour and skill in archery, eagerly sought to take them into their pay. "The arrows of Crete, aimed from a trusty bow, are sure to wound, nor ever miss the destined mark." This republic rose to glory, opulence, and power, and knew no foreign master for a period of ten centuries. At length the time arrived when the victorious Romans invaded Crete, with no other motive but the ambitious desire of subduing the renowned native country of Jupiter. After a three years' siege, it became a Roman province. St. Paul introduced the Christian faith; and his disciple, Titus, whom he left there to cherish and cultivate that precious plant, became the first bishop of the island. In the ninth century, the Saracens fitted out a considerable fleet, and made themselves masters of Crete without opposition. Candax, their first fortress, has been extended to the whole island, under the corrupt and modern appellation of Candia. During a period of one hundred and thirty-eight years, these licentious corsairs braved the fruitless execrations and ineffectual arms of the princes of Constantinople. In the year 960, after seven months' siege, this nest of pirates were extirpated,

who

who had so long defied, with impunity, the majesty of the empire. It remained under the dominion of the Romans, till the time when Baldwin, count of Flanders, being raised to the throne, liberally rewarded the services of the Marquis of Montserrat, by presenting him with the island of Crete. That nobleman, being more covetous of gold than glory, sold it to the republic of Venice, for the price of ten thousand marks, in the year 1204. In the possession of the Venetians it flourished for five centuries and a half; how they lost it, my brother's letter has informed you. But to continue our tour.

The Turkish farmer, who received us after we had left the labyrinth, entertained us with his best. We set out next morning with the sun, and for several hours travelled along the plain. Two ranges of secondary hills formed a double amphitheatre between us and Ida; and beyond these that mountain raises aloft its majestic head. Our guides brought us to a fountain ten miles distant from the top. As we could proceed no further on horseback, we walked on to a sheep-fold six miles from the fountain. Here we rested some time, as it was the only place thereabouts where water was to be procured. After much difficulty, we reached the summit of the mighty mountain, which covers almost the middle of the island. This celebrated Mount Ida, on which the ancients pretend Jupiter was educated, exhibits nothing but a large, sharp-

raised,

raised, barren eminence; no bubbling spring, nor purling rivulet to be seen. On whatever side we turned our eyes, we saw nothing but deep abysses filled with snow, perhaps ever since the reign of king Jupiter. In the horizon we could discover a number of islands in the Archipelago. Ida has received its name from the Greek verb, to see; and we are told that all forests, which afford an agreeable prospect, were called *Ide*. We had the satisfaction of fully observing the plant tragacantha, or gum-dragon, as it is commonly called. This shrub spontaneously yields the gum in the summer; at which time the nutritious juice, thickened by the heat, bursts open most of the vessels wherein it is contained, and flows out from the trunk and branches. The substance, being exposed to the air, grows hard, and is formed into lumps. It is much used in medicine, and by painters. After having gratified our curiosity, we returned to the spring where we had left our horses, and descended some horrible precipices. On a sudden we were enchanted with a most delightful contrast. We entered a large open valley, planted with olive, orange, pomegranate, mulberry, cyprus, myrtle, and all sorts of fruit trees. The valley loses itself insensibly in the finest and most fruitful plain of all Candia. At last we arrived safe at Asomatos, i. e. the monastery of angels.

The superior received us with great politeness, and

and invited us into a large hall, where a table was setting out for supper. The table was soon covered with meats, vegetables, and fruits. This was a charming sight to us, who had travelled all day without tasting any food. The superior honoured us with his presence, and pressed us to eat heartily. He gave a key to a deacon who stood behind his chair; and *he* soon brought in some bottles of old wine, of a delicious flavour. To encourage us, he drank several glasses to our health, and insisted on our returning the compliment. After supper, to amuse us, he proposed to make his priests sing. We agreed, and immediately a number of monks and boys came in, and began a song; they were joined by the superior, who kept them to the proper key. Their music had a plentiful intermixture of nasal sounds, and made a horrible stunning noise; so that we had great difficulty to refrain from laughter. However, we testified our approbation by clapping hands. The superior now begged us to indulge him with an English song. My uncle began "God save the king," in which we joined chorus. They were charmed with the melody of it; but considered their own as more sublime, and we would not contradict them. This, my dear sister, may serve to give you some idea of the character of the Greeks; who, notwithstanding their present abject condition, still retain a degree of vanity and pride.

The

The religious inhabitants of this convent possess rich plantations of olive trees, arable fields, and excellent vineyards, on the adjacent hills; and their plains are watered by a number of rivulets. The next morning we mounted our steeds, and travelled over a range of mountains, which run parallel to Mount Ida. If our horses had not been very sure-footed, we might have been dashed in pieces against the rocks, or plunged into the torrent below. Our fatigues were recompensed, however, by the delightful prospects. We passed through woods of arbutes, privets, and other species of evergreens. In the valleys, the course of the streams was marked out by lines of myrtles; and farm houses were scattered here and there over the country: so that the eye could never tire with admiring so rich a landscape. After a ride of three hours, we reached the convent of Arcadi.

The superior welcomed us to his mansion, and ordered breakfast to be prepared. The houses of the monastery stand round a large square. There is a church where the Greeks of the neighbourhood assemble for divine service. Though the monks are very numerous, few of them enter into holy orders, but are employed in the labours of agriculture. They possess an extensive tract of land, and the oil, wine, corn, and wax, which it annually produces, are of a considerable amount. The cellar is the most remarkable place in the whole

whole convent; we saw in it forty full hogsheads of wine. The best is marked with the superior's name. He goes down into this cellar, every year, to bless the new vintage; and repeats the following prayer: "O Lord God! who art good and merciful to the human race, graciously deign to cast thine eyes on this wine, and on those who are to drink it. Bless our hogsheads, even as thou didst bless the well of Jacob, the pool of Siloam, and the drink of thine holy Apostles. O Lord! who, at the marriage of Cana, didst make manifest thy glorious power to thy disciples, by changing water into wine, cause thy Holy Spirit now to descend on this wine, and bless it in thine own name. Amen."

After thanking the superior for our hospitable entertainment, we left the monastery and descended into the plain. We then continued through a level country, not inferior in verdure and fertility to any part of the island, and once more entered Retimo. On this part of the coast, the sandy hillocks are overspread with the little shrubs which yield the laudanum. The instrument used for gathering it, is a sort of broad whip, with a long handle, having two rows of straps. The country people brush the plants with these whips, to which the juice, which exudes through the leaves, adheres. When the whips are sufficiently covered, they scrape it clean off the straps with a knife, and make it into a lump, or cakes of different sizes. It is gathered in July, and must be

done

done in the sultry time of the day, and in the deadest calm; and yet the purest laudanum is not free from dust. A diligent man will gather three pounds two ounces per day, and more, which they sell for a crown on the spot. To add weight to this drug, they knead it up with a very fine blackish sand, which is found in those parts; and it is no easy matter to discover the fraud, when they are well mixed together. The shrub, which produces the laudanum, is full of branches, and grows to the height of two or three feet. The flower is composed of five rose-coloured leaves; the fruit is almost oval, hard, and brown, and covered over with a silky down; and the seeds are red and angular. From Retimo we returned to Canea. I shall conclude with a few observations on the inhabitants, &c.

The Turks are naturally tall, robust, and vigorous. Their limbs, being unembarassed by those bands which impede our motions, preserve those admirable proportions which constitute the perfection of human beauty. Strength and gravity are displayed in their gestures: and when they walk, a certain dignity animates and composes, at the same time, their motions. The poor Greeks have neither the stature, the strength, nor the beauty of the Musselmans. Though they enjoy the same pureness of air, and happy temperature of climate, yet they are the slaves of oppression. They drag out their days in fear and anxiety, and are often hurried, by despair, to put an end to their lives.

Their

Their look is cringing and servile; and you read their degradation and slavery, inscribed in strong characters on their foreheads. They dress very light; a red leather cap on their heads, a jacket, and a pair of blue calico drawers, very wide, with slippers or buskins, constitute their apparel. The women wear a long coat of reddish cloth, full of plaits, with very wide sleeves; their head dress consists of a white veil, which falls over the shoulders. The island abounds with poultry, pigeons, mutton, red partridges, woodcocks, hares, &c. but no rabbits. It not only produces great quantities of wine, but also supplies other nations with oil, wool, silk, honey, wax, and laudanum. Before the revolution, the French sometimes imported two hundred thousand measures of oil from this island. The Turks cannot withstand the tempting juice of the Candian grapes. When they get to a cask of it, they quaff most liberally. Most of the villages are built of marble, but in rugged, unhewn pieces. They make use of marble, only because it is most common; for the same reason that the Mexicans employed gold and silver.

The inhabitants are very happy in not being exposed to the bite of noxious insects, the poison of serpents, and the rapacity of the wild beasts of the forest. The ancients believed that Crete enjoyed these singular advantages, on account of its having been the birth-place of Jupiter. Dittany holds the first rank among the medicinal plants of this island.

It

It is surprising what extravagant praises the ancients have bestowed on the virtues of that plant. They pretended that it was an antidote to poison, and that venomous reptiles instantly expired, on coming into contact with any of its leaves. At present, the inhabitants apply it, with success, on various occasions. The leaf, when dried, and taken in an infusion, with a little sugar, makes a pleasant beverage, of a finer flavour than tea.

This fine country is infested with a disease, less dangerous than the plague, but whose symptoms are somewhat more hideous; namely, the leprosy. The victims who are attacked by it are driven from society, and confined to huts on the highway. They are strictly forbidden to leave their miserable dwellings, or hold intercourse with any person. They have, generally, beside their huts, a small garden, and some poultry: with that support, and what they obtain from passengers, they find means to drag out a painful life, in circumstances of shocking bodily distress. Their bloated skin is covered with a scaly crust, speckled with red and white spots, which afflict them with intolerable itchings. These frightful spectres gradually lose the use of their limbs. No sight can be more painful or shocking, than that of a leprous person; no torments are equal to what he endures.

The Turks allow the Greeks the free exercise of their religion, but forbid them to repair their churches or monasteries; and accordingly they

can

can only obtain this permission through the powerful influence of gold: from that the basha's derive very considerable sums. They have twelve bishops, the first of whom assumes the title of archbishop. He wears a triple tiara, writes his signature in red ink, and answers for all the debts of the clergy. To enable him to fulfil his engagements, he lays impositions on the rest of the bishops, and particularly on the monasteries; from them he draws very handsome contributions. I forgot to mention to you the Sphachiots, who inhabit the white mountains. They still retain several of the customs of their ancestors, particularly the old Pyrrhic dance. When they perform it, they are clothed in the ancient garb. A quiver full of arrows hangs from the dancer's shoulder, a bent bow on his arm, and a long sword dangles at his side. They sing and dance both at once. They also perform several evolutions in the course of the dance. Sometimes they form themselves in a circle; at other times they arrange themselvs in two parallel lines, and assume the threatening appearance of two contending armies; again they separate into pairs, as if they were going to engage in single combats. But in all their movements, their ear faithfully observes the notes of the music, and their feet the steps of the dance. In short, my dear sister, the situation of this island, almost at an equal distance from Europe, Asia, and Africa, gives

gives it an equal relation to each of those three divisions of the globe; and it is scarcely possible to find a country more favoured by nature. Adieu.

Yours, affectionately,

HENRY.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVI.

THE Colonel wishing to enjoy at his leisure the pleasure of visiting the different islands, without the inconvenience of waiting at one, for a vessel to carry them to another, determined on having one of those small half-decked boats, in which the Greeks coast about the Archipelago. They have both sails and oars, which is a double advantage, and with a fair wind skim rapidly along the surface of the main. Having agreed with the captain that the boat should be entirely at their disposition, the first place our travellers made was Cerigo.

This island was subject to the Venetians, till the French erected the republic of the Seven Islands. Its ancient name was Porphymsa, so called from the shoals of purple fish taken on its coast. When Venus was born of the sea, she is said to have landed on the island, of which she became the presiding deity. The inhabitants erected to her a magnificent temple; some slight remains of it may be traced. The city, bearing the same name, is built on a rock, and strongly fortified. The country is very mountainous, but produces fine wines, corn, and oil. It boasts nothing very

remarkable at present, except the monastery of St. John, which is cut out of the solid rock. The Lacedemonians formerly used it as a retreat for their vessels coming from Egypt and Libya. It has one very fine port. When under the dominion of Venice, it was a bishopric; and every two years a Venetian nobleman was sent there in quality of a governor. The two commissaries, sent by Buonaparte to Greece, landed in Cerigo. They became acquainted with a very learned man, whom, they pretend, had a catalogue of all the antiquities of the island, and some remarkably fine manuscripts. However, they could not prevail with him to accompany them into the interior parts. The refusal they thought so unworthy of their high character, that they would not present him with a print of Buonaparte, which they distributed to all those who were not insensible to his talents. The commissaries were Corsicans, and deputed to the Bey of Maina in the Morea, to stir up the ancient spirit of liberty in the breasts of the modern Lacedemonians.

As our travellers continued their voyage within sight of the rocky coasts of the Morea; "That is the country," exclaimed the colonel, "of the ancient Spartans, whose laws, discipline, abstinence, patience, and valour, have been the theme of constant praise." Whilst they were conversing on those ancient heroes, a boat with six Mainotes in it hailed them, to sell their fish. "What fine men," said

said the colonel, "I think I never beheld man to such advantage; the aspect and lofty demeanour of each seem to tell me:

"Sparta's my country; Sparta, fam'd for men."

Upon enquiry concerning them, the captain informed the colonel, that they are as free and independent as their ancestors, being defended by their poverty, and the inaccessibility of their mountains. As fond of arms, and still wear on their heads iron helmets, in which they occasionally boil their black broth. A few hours' fair wind brought our travellers to Argentiera.

The only inhabited place in the island is seated on the summit of a mountain of rocks, to which the access is very difficult. The houses are few, miserably constructed, and filled with fleas. The superstitious Greeks rely on Heaven, more than on the structure of their habitations, for their security. Accordingly, on the eve of the festival of the exaltation of the Holy Cross, it is an ancient custom to cleanse the flat roofs of the houses: they consist only of a sort of wooden hurdle, on which earth is spread and beaten. Towards evening, when the bells of the church begin to ring, the inhabitants draw upon them large crosses, which figures are, in their estimation, the most effectual means of preserving the roofs from being penetrated by the rains. The island was formerly called Cimolis;

is about eighteen miles in circumference; and derives its present name from a silver mine that was long worked, but is now unknown. It is nothing but a group of volcanic substances, and exhibits every where indications of great combustion. Our young friends were much amused with the wonders of nature. They walked to the hot springs, which issue from a rock near the sea, in the north-west part of the island. The heat of the waters is so great, that a person cannot hold his hand in them, and an egg is in an instant boiled hard. The Greeks reckon them efficacious for curing rheumatism, and similar disorders, by means of linen cloths steeped in them and applied to the parts affected. Near the springs is an ancient volcano, which, for a long time, exhaled infectious vapours. The most common shrub on the island is the lentisk; the fruit of it yields an oil, that is fit only for burning, though the poor use it in their food. Saffron also grows on the mountains; and the valleys are generally covered with a white and fat clay, which the inhabitants employ instead of soap to wash their linen. The soil is extremely dry, and destitute of springs; and the only water they have is collected in cisterns, or brought from Milo, a neighbouring island. The Venetians, during their wars with the Turks, cut down all the olive trees, and did irreparable damage to the island; nor do the present inhabitants dare to make fresh plantations: for if they show any disposition

tion to industry, it is immediately stifled by the weight of additional taxes. Though the soil is barren, the industrious islanders make it produce for them a subsistence; and excellent fish are taken round the coasts. Cotton is almost the only article that produces for them any money. The women knit stockings, and the men employ themselves in fishing and navigation. The dress of the former soon caught the attention of our young friends, as being very peculiar. They wear several pairs of stockings, so as to make the small of the leg appear the same size with the calf. That is considered an essential part of dress; and for fear that the eye should be deprived of so elegant a sight, the petticoats do not descend above two inches below the knee. The neck is concealed under a corset, quilted, and stiffened with whale-bone; a piece of velvet, satin, or cloth trimmed with gold or silver net-lace, or embroidered, adorns their whole front; and in their gala dress, two very wide sleeves are fixed to the corset, and fall on each side nearly as low as the knee; and the head is enveloped with a handkerchief, which passes under the chin.

Our travellers left their vessel lying in the roadstead of Argentiera, and crossed over in the ferry to Milo. Being assured that the plague was not there, they went on shore, and walked up to the village of Sifour, which is built on the top of a rock. From this elevated situation they enjoyed a

production of the island is alum; found in large lumps, composed of threads fine as the softest silk, and white as snow. It likewise abounds with metals, sulphur, saffron, salt, and medicinal roots; and is famous for its warm baths and mineral waters.

Milo is said to have received its name from the great trade it has, for ages, carried on in hand-mills. It was originally peopled from Phœnicia and Crete, and afterwards colonized by the Lacedæmonians.

The next island, which claimed the attention of our travellers, was Siphanto, from whence William wrote to his father.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Siphanto.*

THE Archipelago, more than any other sea perhaps, is subject to variable and uncertain weather. Gusts of wind, violent hurricanes, and gentle calms succeed each other, in the autumnal months, with uncommon rapidity, and render the navigation not only dangerous, but tedious. Cerigo, and Cerigotto, which lies between that and Candia, may be called the keys of the Archipelago, or Ægean Sea; a name originally given it by the Greeks, but for what reason is not agreed on. The navigation of this sea, which abounds with islands to the number of fifty-three, from Tenedos to Crete, according to the enumeration of ancient geographers, and which are comprehended under the two general denominations of *Cyclades* and *Sporades*, was always

always reckoned so dangerous, that the Greeks had the proverb, "He sails on the Ægean Sea," applied to a person who engages in a hazardous undertaking. The Ægean Sea is usually divided into seven parts, and five principal rivers run into it.

Siphanto was formerly reckoned the richest island in the Archipelago, on account of its gold and silver mines; a tenth part of their produce was devoted to the temple of Apollo at Delphos. The mines became such a source of corruption of manners, and duplicity of character, that the term of "living like a Siphantine," was used throughout Greece as a reproachful comparison. There are other mines of lead and iron, which were explored in the last century by some Jews, by order of the Porte. The natives, fearing that they should be constrained to work them, bribed the captain who brought over the Jews to sink his vessel; which he did whilst they were on board. The captain saved himself in the boat, but the poor Jews went to the bottom. We are delighted with the fineness of the air, after breathing the sulphureous vapours of Milo. Every thing is excellent in this fertile island. Silk, cotton, figs, oil, wax, and other productions of less importance, are the articles of commerce. The actual industry of the inhabitants shows what Siphanto might become under more propitious circumstances. Their calicoes are in

great request, and their straw hats find a sale all over the Archipelago.

The men are mild and hospitable; the other sex are handsome, but so disguised by the linen bandages which cover their faces, that I can only compare them to walking mummies. The antiquities have met with very ill treatment; the ruins of a temple, and a few scattered fragments of sculpture, did not much attract our notice. We therefore crossed over to Serpho, only twelve miles distant.

The mountains of that island are so rugged and steep, that poets feigned that Perseus transformed into stone the very natives. From the port we walked up to the town, built on a frightful rock. The Romans looked upon Serpho as a place proper to make enormous offenders die of the spleen. Augustus banished there the orator Cassius, who could not be cured of using abusive language, by seventeen years banishment in Crete. In our rambles we were much amused in picking up pieces of iron-ore, and loadstone. The mines of the latter are very rich, but lie deep in the ground.

We were invited to be present at a Greek dance. It is certain that the Greeks have not absolutely lost the jocularity, nor that genius for satire, which shone so conspicuous in their ancestors. They danced more than any other people. Dancing formed a part of their gymnastic exercises;

cises; it was prescribed as a remedy in certain complaints, and even entered into their military discipline. The great merit of the dance appeared to us, to consist of all kinds of strange, distorted postures. This singular and fatiguing recreation, those votaries of Terpsichore kept up all night. How different from the Turks, who scarcely dance at all. In this particular they think as the Romans did; and, perhaps, that is the only thing th y have in common with that celebrated people. Since I am on the subject of dancing, I must beg leave to introduce to you the Derviches, who are passionately fond of it. They dance twice a week in their mosks. They dance in a circle; and though with very great velocity, their heads are not easily affected, as they are habituated to the sensation. They continue this verticle motion till the music ceases, and then suddenly stop, with as firm an air as if nothing had happened.

According to Pliny, the frogs of Serpho never croaked; but when they were removed to another place, they were more noisy and clamorous than others. Hence the proverb amongst the ancients, of "a frog of Seriphus," applied to a man who neither spoke nor sang. That mute race must now be lost, for we heard them constantly croaking in the marshes. The best lands in the island belong to the monks of St. Michael, who have a convent

near the sea. The port, which is a very fine one, serves as a retreat to ships that happen to lose their course by tempestuous weather. Adieu, my dear father, and believe me,

Your dutiful son,

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

THE colonel and his nephews embarked on board their vessel, hoping to be greatly gratified by investigating the famous grotto of Antiparos, about eighteen miles distant from Serpho. As the port is navigable only for small barks and tartanes, the captain cast anchor in the canal between that island and Paros. On entering the village, about a mile from the sea, our travellers found the inhabitants in the greatest consternation, owing to the Turks having been there to collect the capitation tax. A fleet, or a division, goes annually to the Greek islands to collect this tribute. It is then that the poor Greeks most feel the weight of the iron sceptre that governs them. When a ship arrives in any port, all the people who can, fly up the country; others shut themselves up in their houses, or bury every thing they have in the fields. Every one on the roads, is plundered by the Turkish soldiers and sailors of the ships; and if they are not wounded by a pistol-ball, or killed on the spot, they esteem themselves happy. The captains and officers raise contributions for themselves, on the principal inhabitants, under various pretences: and the Greeks are generally prevented from complaining, from

from fear that the next ship which comes will take revenge.

Having procured a guide, they walked to the grotto, which is one of the greatest singularities, perhaps, in nature. A rude cavern is the first object that presents itself to view, vaulted and inclosed by a court made by the shepherds. This place is divided by some natural pillars; on the largest is an old mutilated inscription. They descended into a narrow passage, each holding in his hand a lighted torch. The guide having brought a ladder and some ropes with him, by means of one fixed at the entrance, they descended a frightful precipice. From the bottom of this, they slid down another; and having fixed the ladder, went down the side of a rock, that was perfectly perpendicular. At the bottom, they scrambled over some rocks as well as they could; and after all these fatigues, entered that admirable grotto, which has been the admiration of all travellers. It is supposed to be about forty fathoms high, and fifty broad: the roof is arched, and rises in several places into large masses, representing, in form, bunches of grapes, festoons, &c. On the right and left are natural curtains, that stretch out every way, and form on the sides, openings like little closets all round the grotto. Amongst these, a large one is particularly distinguishable; it is formed by productions which so exactly represent the roots, branches, and heads of cauliflowers, that

that one would think nature meant by this to show us how she operates in the vegetation of stones. All these figures are of white marble, transparent and crystalized. To the left rise three or four pillars, planted like stumps of trees on the tuft of a little rock. At the further end of the grotto, our travellers were very much struck with a pyramid which is called the altar, ever since a French traveller caused mass to be celebrated there, in 1673. The piece stands quite detached; it is four and twenty feet high, and adorned with chaplets, fluted lengthways. This pyramid is, perhaps, the finest mass of marble in the world: the ornaments which cover it are as masterly executed as if a sculptor had just given them the finishing touch. At the foot of the altar are two half-columns, on which the guide placed torches, that they might view the grotto more distinctly.

"What a magnificent and solemn sight," exclaimed the colonel, "it must have been, when the Marquiss of Nointel, ambassador of France to the Porte, passed the three Christmas holidays in this grotto, in the year 1673. He was accompanied by above five hundred persons, who were curious to follow him. One hundred large wax torches, and four hundred lamps, that burned night and day, were so well arranged, that no church was ever better or more grandly illuminated. Men were stationed, at regular distances, from the altar to the opening of the cavern, who gave the signal with

with their handkerchiefs when the host was lifted up. Immediately a volley was fired from several patereroes that were at the entrance; and the trumpets, hautboys, fifes, and violins, made the ceremony still more magnificent. The ambassador passed the night in one of the recesses formed naturally in the rock. They were very much perplexed to provide water from the village to serve so many people. The Capuchins, who were his excellency's chaplains, were not in possession of the rod of Moses. After much searching, they found a spring to the left of the ascent, in the hollow of the rock." This celebration of high mass is perpetuated by a Latin inscription on the base of the pyramid.

Finding nothing else in the island worthy their attention, they crossed the canal that runs between Antiparos and Paros; and landed at Parechia, built on the ancient city of Paros, on the west side of the island. Every where they met with valuable monuments of antiquity; the very walls of the present city are built with columns, architraves, and pedestals, mixed with pieces of ancient marble of a surprising size, which were once employed in more noble edifices. The natives build their houses with blocks of marble, which they find ready cut to their hands; but never trouble themselves about placing them in a regular manner. Their fields, likewise, are inclosed with friezes, altars, and bas-reliefs; however, all the finest

pieces

pieces have been carried away by different travellers. Every one knows that Paros was formerly famous for its marble, which was of an extraordinary whiteness, and in such request amongst the ancients, that the best statuaries used no other. Pliny tells us, that Parian marble alone was made use of in adorning the frontispiece of the celebrated labyrinth in Egypt, which was reckoned one of the wonders of the world. Paros was formerly rich and powerful; and Cornelius Nepos calls it an island elated with its riches. It was first peopled by the Phœnicians, and afterwards a colony of Cretans settled in it. They joined Darius in his expedition against Greece, assisting with a considerable squadron; but after the victory obtained by Miltiades, at Marathon, he, elated with glory after that great day, besiged Paros by land and sea. The inhabitants, seeing their walls laid in ruins, desired to capitulate; but, perceiving a great fire on the side of a neighbouring island, they imagined it to be the signal of some approaching succours; whereupon they broke off the capitulation, and this gave occasion to the proverb, "To keep one's word after the Parian manner." Miltiades, after blockading the city during six and twenty days, was obliged to relinquish the enterprise, and return to Athens with disgrace. After the defeat of Mithridates the Great, this, and the other islands, submitted to the Romans.

The first object of our travellers was to visit the

the ancient quarries, which they found quite deserted, and partly filled up. With great difficulty they descended into those caverns, which have been the sources from whence the porticoes of Greece, and other celebrated buildings, received their splendour. "This marble," said the colonel, as he was examining different pieces, "was as precious, in the eyes of the ancients, as jewels; gold was often its concomitant embellisher; and the gods had no statues or temples made of more costly materials. On the same spot where nature produced a substance most valuable for the chisel of the sculptor, she gave life to the two most celebrated artists of antiquity, Phidias and Praxitiles; who have immortalized this marble by their works. Their master-pieces, the ornaments of Greece, are now lost, mutilated, or buried; and their descendants, whom misery and slavery have degraded, are ignorant of that art which was the glory of their country." The chisel of the modern Parian sculptor is confined to the making of mortars and saltsellers. But whilst learning holds its rank amongst men, this island will ever be revered for an author of the noblest monument of chronology that is in the world, viz. the Parian Chronicle, or Arundelian marbles. They take their name from the Earl of Arundel, who procured them from Paros. In the year 1667, his grandson, the Duke of Norfolk, presented those curious remains to the university of Oxford. In their perfect state, they contained

contained a chronological detail of the principal events of Greece, during a period of 1318 years; from the foundation of the Athenian monarchy, to the year 264 before Christ. These valuable tables have been applied to the elucidation of many parts of ancient history that had been long involved in obscurity.

Paros has gradually declined, ever since the Russians, in the last century, made it the emporium of their forces, and the centre of their operations. They erected batteries, constructed fortifications, and built magazines. But their possession of the island did not produce the effect which ought to have been expected. Armed, to all appearance, to restore the Greeks to their ancient liberty, they became their scourge. Obliged to employ, as auxiliaries, men without discipline, the Albanese, inured to plundering and excess, these same Russians, from whom the Greeks expected their deliverance, showed themselves rather in the light of enemies than liberators. The inhabitants, groaning under the most cruel vexations, forsook their dwellings. From that time the island has almost become a desert. Our travellers now proceeded to Naxia, where they landed, after a short passage. It is the largest of the Cyclades, and its fertility, more than its size, has given it the title of "Queen." Besides, it is the most agreeable, and less exposed to vexations than the rest of the islands. Our young friends were delighted with

with the beauty of its rural scenery. Streams of limpid water cross it in all directions, and carry freshness and abundance through the plains. Those trees, which in our climate are considered as delicate objects of expense and luxury, the oranges, citrons, and pomegrates, grow there without culture: their blossoms perfume the pure air one breathes, and the flavour of the fruit is exquisite. The olive, mulberry, and fig-trees, add to the varied productions of the earth, and embellish the face of the country. Other trees, of all sizes, whose verdure never fails, form plantations, and lend their refreshing shade. Vines, which still produce exquisite wine, recal to our recollection that the island was formerly consecrated to Bacchus. The ancients, on account of the fecundity of the soil, compared it to Sicily; and when they spoke of the delicious wine, compared it to the nectar of the gods. Numerous flocks of sheep browse the odoriferous plants which deck the sides of the mountains. Hares and red partridges furnish amusement to the hunter, and increase the delicacies of the table. Fish is in great abundance, and provisions of all kinds at a very low price. The Jesuits, who understood so well the choice of situation, gave the preference to Naxia; they had a town-house, and a still more beautiful one in the country; and this circumstance, in the eyes of those who are acquainted with the spirit of the priests, who discerned, with so much sagacity, the

the choicest spots in those countries where they extended their colossal order—this circumstance alone would afford a good idea of Naxia.

The hospitality our travellers experienced was highly gratifying; and they were astonished at meeting with that affability and politeness, which are the fruits of a refined education. The principal inhabitants, descendants of those ancient families of France, Italy, and Spain, who settled in different parts of Greece, after the conquests of the western princes, still preserve the urbanity, and noble and generous manners, of their origin. And the females can boast of their charms and amiable qualities. Their vanity is of a singular cast; they return from the country, after vintage, with a train of thirty or forty women, half on foot and half on asses; one carries upon her head one or two napkins, or a petticoat of her mistress's; another marches along, holding in her hand a pair of stockings, a stone jar, or a few earthen plates: all the furniture of the house is set out to view, and the mistress, sorrily mounted, makes her entry into the city, at the head of the procession. The children are in the middle of the cavalcade, and the husband generally brings up the rear. Within a stone's throw of Naxia is a rock, where our travellers saw the beautiful marble gate, supposed to be part of the magnificent temple which the Naxians built in honour of Bacchus. For they pretend that he was born and educated in their island. The temple,

ple, and the rock on which it stood, were joined to the island by a stone bridge, on which were to be seen, so late as the sixteenth century, the conduits that served to convey the wine into the cellars of the temple. Besides many curious plants, the island produces the best emery, which is found on mountains near the western coast. It is often used as ballast by the English, and is so cheap that twelve or fifteen hundred weight is sold for a crown. The mountains are composed of marble, and serpentine; so called from being speckled with white and green spots, like the skin of a serpent.

The Naxians were anciently governed by kings, but they afterwards exchanged this form of government for a republic. They were reduced by the Persians; but in the expedition of Darius and Xerxes against Greece, they revolted and fought for their countrymen. They were at that time in a very flourishing condition.; had a great number of slaves; a squadron of ships well appointed; and eight thousand land forces. It remained under the dominion of the Roman and Greek emperors till the taking of Constantinople by the French and Venetians in 1207. It was afterwards the residence of the Dukes of the Archipelago, who were driven out by the Turks under Selim II. Thus ended the sovereignty of the Archipelago, after having been above three centuries in the hands of the Latin princes.

Our

Our travellers having waited for a fair wind, set sail for Amorgo, and in a few hours landed in the port of St. Anne, on the north side of the island. Here ignorance and superstition have succeeded to the sciences and fine arts. In the country which gave birth to Simonides, the famous Greek poet, who possessed, in a great degree, the art of moving the soul, and calling forth the sweet tears of sensibility, are now to be found no others than priests and monks, without genius and without knowledge, and the credulous ministers of an absurd credulity. They showed to the colonel a vase, kept in a small chapel, which the monks affirmed to be a certain oracle, and which the ignorant consult, in order to ascertain the issue of a voyage or enterprize: the vase full of water is a sign of success; but if it be almost empty, it announces ill fortune. There remains only, at present, a small town, built on an eminence; and monasteries, where miracles are the occupation and the principal revenue of the monks who inhabit them. High mountains, and naked and steep rocks, occupy some parts of the island; and in others, it presents fertile plains and valleys. A few districts are still well cultivated. Olive trees furnish a tolerably large quantity of oil; figs are good, and very common; and the wine is of an excellent quality. If agriculture has almost preserved its ancient prosperity, the arts are extinct, as well as the sciences which accompany and direct them.

them. In Amorgo are no longer fabricated those rich stuffs, which were formerly in great request, both on account of the fineness of their tissue, and of the beauty of their colour. The inhabitants, nevertheless, still apply themselves to the art of dyeing, and know how to give to their linen cloth a red colour with archil, a species of lichen, which not only clothes the rocks of Amorgo, but also grows on some other of the islands. Our travellers were surprised to hear the Greeks call it "the English plant." The reason is, because within these thirty years great quantities have been imported. Before that period, the Greeks were entirely ignorant of its properties. "What a wonderful nation we are!" exclaimed the colonel; "all our institutions are directed to trade and manufactures; we take advantage of all resources, and exercise our industry and activity on productions which others despise. It is thus that, in great things, as well as in small, we have almost always preceded other nations in discoveries; and objects which appear the most trifling, provided they can be applied to the advantage of our commerce, or the useful arts, are not unworthy of our researches and speculations."

Amongst the leading attractions of Amorgo, must bereckoned the mildness and affability of the men, and the beauty of the women, who, by their charms, recal to us the country, where, from time immemorial, they have been gifted with the noblest and

and most elegant forms, and all the details of beauty. But those pretty islanders wear such singular dresses, that they must be really beautiful to appear such in so strange a costume. In that respect they resemble those of Argentiera; with this difference, that the women of Amorgo pass a large yellow handkerchief, made of fine wool, over the forehead and the lower part of the face, twist it round the head in the form of a turban, tie it behind, and suffer a long end of it to hang down the back. Amongst eastern nations, fashions are not, as with us, the fancies of a day, arising from instability and the caprice of luxury; but they are old and constant, and their origin is lost in the lapse of ages past. William and Henry were much amused with the Greek manner of fishing. They went out two or three evenings with the fishermen; who had in the stern of the boat a gridiron; on it they burnt pieces of wood, to attract the fish by means of the light; which, while they are following, the fishermen strike them with their harpoons.

CHAP. XXVIII.

"MY dear nephews," said the colonel, "since we are so near the celebrated little island of Nio, we must not omit visiting it. In the port of that island died the most illustrious poet that the world ever produced; I mean the immortal Homer. No less than seven illustrious cities disputed the right of having given birth to that most ancient of all the profane writers. Longinus, the most refined of critics, compares the Iliad to the mid-day, and the Odyssey to the setting sun; and observes, that the latter still preserves its original splendour and majesty, though deprived of its meridian heat. The wind was so favourable, that they soon landed in the port. As they entered the village, which is built on an eminence, they were met by the Turkish governor, who received them with much hospitality and politeness. William, anxious to know whether there were any remains of Homer's tomb, soon entered into conversation, and found the governor well acquainted with the works of the immortal bard. "You will find no vestiges whatever of his tomb," said the governor; "and very few of the modern Greeks retain any recollection of the honourable burial

burial which their ancestors gave their most favourite poet."

The island of Nio does not offer much, in its present state, to interest the traveller. Corn is the chief produce. Covetousness, and the pressing desire of enjoyment, which is stronger in men who live under oppression and misfortune, and to whom futurity is uncertain, have induced the inhabitants to cut down the fine woods which covered particular districts. This evil is less felt on account of the mildness of the climate; and the shrubs suffice for the uses of the kitchen. The most remarkable custom there is the feast of St. Gregory, that is kept in the spring; dedicated, one may say, to the beetles, which are very common in those islands. On the eve of the feast, each family ought to make its necessary provision of water and vegetables; for if any were brought in on the feast-day, they would imagine the house must be filled with beetles. This precaution, nevertheless, is not sufficient to conjure away the insects: each head of a family ought to procure two or three, which he puts into a hollow reed, and throws them into the sea, at the same time uttering a thousand maledictions. Although long experience has demonstrated the inefficacy of that ceremony, and its imprecations, yet there is not a single inhabitant who does not scrupulously observe it every year, though their houses are no

less infected. How blind is superstition, when time and ignorance have suffered it to strike deep its roots!

The colonel and his nephews took leave of the hospitable islanders, with some degree of regret, and embarked with a fine breeze for Rhodes. As they walked the quarter-deck, enjoying the different views of the surrounding islands: "One is led to imagine," said the colonel, "that this multitude of islands must have formed a continent, in the early ages of the world. A sudden eruption of the waters of the Black Sea, earthquakes, and volcanoes, have perhaps overwhelmed this part of Greece, and rent it into a thousand pieces. Each of these islands, the remains of a country violently agitated, and sunk in a great measure by one of those wonderful catastrophes of nature, whose traces are so strongly marked on the surface of the globe, has, near it, islets, rocks, and sand-banks; fragments of its ancient junction with a neighbouring island, or with the continent. To the curious eye it is easy to trace some of those lines which united those divisions, and to be convinced that all of them once formed an immense continent. Every thing, then, in the universe, is subject to destruction; all created beings undergo different changes, and perish; the Creator alone is immutable and eternal. When the hardest and most solid substances, which apparently ought to brave the wreck of time, are pulverised by the fire of volcanoes,

volcanoes, and dissolved by the action of water and air, man, the creature of a day, disputes the remains of that country devoted to the powerful and constant agents of destruction; instead of engaging himself to cultivate and embellish the spot where he is fixed. Yielding to the fury of ambition, he quits pleasant occupations and useful labours; and arming himself with all the resources which the genius of devastation can engender, he covers with ruin and desolation an abode already exposed to the ravages of ages, and which he can only inhabit for a few short years. At the voice of the ambitious or the wicked, mankind are inflamed with the rage of battle; they menace, they struggle, they destroy; nations devote themselves to hatred and death; whole generations swim in blood; and heaps of slain form piles of horror and corruption, which incessant fury still tends to augment."

The wind continuing to favour the passage of our travellers, they were soon landed in the island of Rhodes. The capital, which bears the same name, is situated on the north-east side. It displays no remarkable curiosity, or monument of former times. Those streets, which were laid out with such ingenious art, and on so grand a scale; and that uniform series of buildings, which were raised and adorned by the hand of judicious taste, have been succeeded by narrow winding streets, and buildings destitute of grace, ornament, or regularity. There are, however, some remains, which still testify that the island was once possessed by

the knights of Rhodes. Their arms, and those of the Pope, still adorn the fronts of several buildings. The walls and towers, which they built, are still standing. The old church of St. John has become the principal mosk. The large hospital, where Christian charity once received the faithful from different parts of the world, and kindly supplied their wants, serves the Turks, at present, for public granaries; and the palace of the grand masters is a ruinous mass. The port has even changed its appearance: it is no longer that fine bason where vessels of all sizes found protection, and whose quays were animated with all the activity of a flourishing commerce. It is half choaked up with sand, and only frequented by Greek boats and some merchant-ships. Dock-yards for the Ottoman navy are established there. The timber is brought from the fine, extensive forests of Caramania; but the ships are built so slow, and the choice of timber is so bad, that it sometimes happens that they are half rotten before they are launched.

The colonel having met with the captain of a Danish ship bound to England, Henry availed himself of the opportunity of forwarding the following letter to his father.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Rhodes.*

IF a Rhodian of the age of Alexander were to pay a visit to his native city, in the present times, he

he would find no vestige of its former grandeur, and would be apt to think himself transported into some region which had never been inhabited by any but barbarians. I can no longer entertain you with the description of a superb city, the outlines of a wise legislature, or the glory of a free people. The ambition of the Romans, the corrupt and oppressive government of the monarchs of the Lower Empire, the fanaticism of the Arabians, and the convulsions of earthquakes, alternately contributed to spread devastation over this once populous and flourishing island. The succeeding despotism of the Turks, has been attended with a train of ills equally destructive. Science, art, and the monuments of former opulence and splendour, have been totally expelled or effaced by its unhappy influence. These people, who perish daily victims to the plague, carry the seeds of it wherever they land. No precaution is adopted, to impede the communication or stop the progress. The infected enter, with as much liberty as the man in health, all parts of the empire, and no one thinks of avoiding them. No wonder, after this, that Rhodes should be exposed to the most terrible of contagions, which cannot be attributed to its climate, one of the most salubrious and delightful in the world. If we except the capital, almost wholly inhabited by Turks, the population of the island is composed of Greeks; descendants of those famous Rhodians, whose valour, ardent love of

liberty, taste for the fine arts, skilfulness in navigation, and activity in commerce, have been celebrated in the annals of antiquity. Their laws were so universally approved, that every country made use of them to decide disputes concerning maritime affairs; and they were at last adopted by other commercial nations, and introduced into the Roman codes. In short, they enjoyed liberty till the reign of the Emperor Vespasian. Its prosperity and opulence are no more. With the loss of liberty, that flame of genius, which had produced so many wonderful monuments of art, seems to have been extinguished. In later times it became the seat of the brave warriors, known by the name of the Knights of St. John. In 1522 they were subdued by the united valour of all the Ottoman forces. Rather exterminated than vanquished, those brave men were, almost all, buried under the ruins of their walls and forts. The Emperor Solyman entered the city, wading through streams of the blood of his subjects. He found nothing but piles of ruins, and a few knights covered with wounds. At their head appeared the grand master; that celebrated old man, who, with the caution of age, united the magnanimity of a sage, and the courage of a hero.

In vain we have travelled over the island in search of antiquities; the superb temples, and that stupendous monument of art, the Colossus, have long since disappeared. In the middle stands a high

high mountain, which we ascended, on foot, with great labour. But one of the noblest views amply repaid us. The elevated coast of Caramania, the islands scattered over the Archipelago, the vast expanse of waters, and the island itself rising beneath our feet, produced a variety of scenes which charmed our sight. Around the villages there are many cultivated fields and orchards, containing fig, pomegranate, and orange trees; but several fine valleys discover no marks of cultivation. The poor peasant, who knows not but he may be expelled, in a few days, from his present habitation and possessions, does not choose to plough and sow, that another may reap. Deer and other kinds of game animate the forests; and large coveys of red partridges are found in the plains. The fisheries on the coast are very productive. The sea furnishes coral and fine sponges; and the island is rich in fossils of all kinds; so that the naturalist might form a curious and interesting collection. I shall conclude with transmiting to you an account of our visit to the ruins of the ancient city of Telmissus, on the coast of Caramania. The theatre stands in the opening of the harbour, on a hill which overlooks it from the east. It is of a semicircular form, and contains twenty-four rows of seats. The right side is fallen down, but the other parts are still tolerably entire. We read the name, on some of the stones, of the duke

of Choisseul Gouffier, who published a beautiful work on the antiquities of Greece. At some further distance, on the north side of the same hill, we saw a number of tombs cut out in the rock. The most remarkable of them are fronted with a peristyle, supported on pillars. Here too, the ravages of avarice appear; almost all of them have suffered violation. The stone that barred their entrance, and the bodies which they contained, have been carried off: others are partly covered with brambles and moss. Advancing farther, we beheld the ruins of a castle, which might, perhaps, be the citadel. Fatigued with climbing half the day among the rocks, we sat down on the brink of a rivulet, and at the foot of a fig-tree. There we enjoyed a cool shade, the sweets of repose, and the cold provisions we brought with us. "How delightful!" exclaimed William; "nothing disturbs the quiet which this charming spot affords: not even the sound of the human voice. Sequestered by the lofty mountains by which it is surrounded, from the rest of the world, this vale seems the repository of tranquillity and silence."

The sun still warms by his enlivening rays that beautiful valley, as in past ages. The earth shoots forth a variety of vigorous plants, and tufted shrubs, which are refreshed by the branches of a rivulet; but the hand of man lends no assistance to nature. All is rude and wild. The husbandman

husbandman never chooses to undergo the toils of industry, but from the hope of reaping its fruits. If that hope fails, he sinks into indolence. Such is the present condition of the Greek subjects of the Ottoman empire. The city of Telmissus stood on the boundary between the two provinces of Lycia and Caria. It was celebrated for its soothsayers. "There," says Cicero, "the science of divination flourished." Its harbour is securely sheltered from every storm. This happy circumstance rendered Telmissus a commercial town, and caused the arts to flourish. Mount Cragus, which stands on the north side, vomited flames by night, according to Pliny. Hence arose the fable of the Chimæra. The bay, which now bears the name of Marmorice, is about six miles in length. On the east and west, it is bounded by very high lands, and, becoming gradually straighter, terminates at the opening of a beautiful valley, where stands a small town, inhabited by Greeks.

What a noble sight it must have been to have beheld our gallant fleet enter this bay, on their passage to Egypt! They remained there nearly two months. Alternately, the whole army was on shore, paraded, and refreshed.

The coolness of the shades of night warned us, that it was high time to quit the mossy couch on which we had so agreeably reclined. We bade

adieu to the rivulet which had quenched our thirst, and to the fig tree that afforded us its shade; jumped into our boat, and rowed back to Rhodes. Believe me, dear father,

Your's, dutifully,

HENRY.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

THE colonel and his nephews bade adieu, with regret, to Rhodes, where so many memorable circumstances and events were recalled to their minds. "Shall those happy times never return," said the colonel, "in which all the polished nations of the world paid homage to her superior improvements; when the abilities of her artists, and the eloquence of her orators, attracted a crowd of illustrious strangers to her shores? When the light of science is once extinguished in a country, must that country remain, for ever, buried in the shades of ignorance?" Such were the reflections in which they were engaged, when they entered the strait formed by the coast of Caramania and Rhodes. "This is a dangerous pass," said the captain, "the waves sometimes run mountains high: the different currents, intersected by islands and capes, are the cause of this extraordinary agitation. And it often happens that on one side there is a dead calm, whilst on the other it blows a gale of wind." The vessel advanced but slowly; the force of the wind, being broken on the elevated coast, made scarce any impression on the sails. In the mean time a number of fish, playing on the surface of the waters, passed with great rapidity under the ship's

ship's side. "That is a certain sign of an approaching storm," cried the captain, "we had better down with the main sheet, and lay to." The sky became gradually overcast, and the wind began to blow with great violence. Night coming on, every sail was furled, and our travellers lay the whole of the night at the mercy of a very heavy sea. In the morning, the wind being abated, the captain tacked about and run before it, and took refuge in a deep creek in the isle of Symi. "Pray captain," said Henry, "what are those men diving for?" "Sir," said he, "the sponges which grow in great plenty all around this island, are the sole resource on which the inhabitants depend. Men, women, and children; all of them are skilled in diving; all know how to procure the only means of subsistence which nature seems to have destined for them. The men, particularly, are very skilful in that dangerous art. They plunge into the sea, and dive to the depth of one hundred and fifty feet; tear off the sponges from the rocks, and return to the surface of the water to breathe a little fresh air, and plunge down again. But they often injure themselves by keeping in their breath too long. At other times, they are in danger of being devoured by sea monsters. The knife with which, you see, they are armed, would be insufficient for their defence. Distinguishing perfectly those animals as they approach, as soon as they perceive a voracious fish, they ascend to the surface

face with great rapidity, and in an instant are secure in their boat."

As the contrary winds prevailed, the colonel and his nephews wandered over the island, and visited the village inhabited by the divers. Every thing displayed extreme poverty and wretchedness. The houses are miserable huts, scarcely admitting the light of day. The inhabitants, grave and melancholy in their manner, seemed overwhelmed with the sense of their wretched lot. They showed nothing of that lively curiosity which is usually excited by the appearance of strangers. Both men and women were clothed in the same manner. A long gown, a girdle, and a shawl about the head, constitute the only dress of both sexes. However, a laborious life, which requires the developement of all the physical faculties, has made the Symiotes robust and of fine stature. Homer has sung the beauty of the king of the island;

> "Nirens, in faultless shape and blooming grace,
> "The loveliest youth of all the Grecian race."

The interior situation of the island is greatly changed. It was formerly cultivated and fruitful in corn; but at present, all is barren. The inhabitants devote themselves exclusively to the sponge fisheries. Being accustomed from infancy to explore the depths of the sea, and to brave with intrepidity the fury of an element with which they are familiarized, they are excellent sailors. They traverse,

traverse, with their light barks, the different distances which separate them from the coasts and from the other islands, and carry on, by the produce of their fisheries, a small trade, which supplies the wants and desires of a people of plungers.

On the opposite coast, at the extremity of the gulf, stood the celebrated city of Cnidus. A statue of Venus, the masterpiece of the sculptor Praxitiles, was in one of the temples. The most advantageous offers never could induce the inhabitants to part with it. Heaps of ruins now point out the situation of one of the most brilliant cities of ancient Greece.

Fine weather, and a smooth sea, having succeeded to the turbulent and dangerous agitation of the elements, our travellers set sail for Stancho. The diversity of the objects, which changed every moment, engaged their attention, and beguiled the time. Sometimes a number of islands and rocks displayed to their view the beauty of their plains and hills, or the barrenness of their cliffs. The high mountains of Asia Minor, covered with forests, closed the scene to the right. Before and behind, other lands appeared to unite in the distance, and form one great lake. Steep rocks, or threatening precipices, constantly met their eye. Another object attracted their notice, which was the number of polypuses playing on the water, like flying fish: the different tints produced on their

their bodies, by the refraction of the rays of the sun, are very brilliant. On the shores of the islands the Greeks fish for them with a line; and it is chiefly during the winter that numbers of them are caught. The Greeks stuff the inside of the animal with force-meat, and reckon it an excellent dish.

The island of Piscopia, which our travellers passed in their passage, offers nothing of any note. It has a good port and different anchoring-grounds, very useful to vessels frequenting those seas. The ancients called it Telos, and highly prized the perfumes prepared there. This branch of commerce is now lost; but is a proof of the goodness of the soil, and of the mildness of its climate, circumstances most favourable to the expansion of the sweet odour of plants and flowers.

The island of Nisari next appeared in view, opposite Cape Ciro, on the Asian coast, from which it is only nine miles distant. It is a piece of land torn off from the isle of Stancho; poets have preserved the memory of that event by a fable, which, like most others, was founded on historical facts. They pretended that Neptune, in pursuing a giant, snatched off a piece of the isle of Cos to overwhelm him, and that the piece, under which the giant was crushed, became the island of Nisari; a temple was erected to Neptune, to perpetuate the remembrance of its formation. Under this allegory, it is not difficult to discover that the effort

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of Neptune to conquer the resistance of the giant, was nothing but the violence of an eruption of the waters, which, breaking through every obstacle, formed a passage across the lands of Stancho, as they have done in many other places in the same seas.

Nisari is an island of small extent, elevated and stony; it contains hot springs, and other vestiges of volcanoes. It produces abundantly different commodities, but has no port where vessels can anchor with safety. A neighbouring islet, the highest, perhaps, of all that part of the continent of Greece, swallowed up in the waters, presents nothing but an enormous block of naked rock, steep, and almost inaccessible. However, some Greek monks, devoting themselves to an absolute retreat, and availing themselves of rents formed by ancient convulsions, have dared to mount, and build on the summit a small chapel dedicated to the Virgin; and a habitation, or rather a grotto, consecrated to an austere retreat, and to the contemplations of solitary life. What a situation for a man, who, free from every passion, wishes to live independant, and sheltered from the contending passions of his fellow creatures! After a tedious passage, our travellers made the island of Stancho, and anchored in the port early in the morning.

"This island, my dear nephews," said the colonel, "gave birth to two most celebrated men in their professions, namely, Hippocrates and Apelles.

Apelles. The former, born about 460 years before Christ, has been styled the Homer of his profession by his writings, few of which remain. He studied physic, and improved himself by reading the tablets in the temples of the gods, where each individual had written down the diseases under which he had laboured, and the means by which he had recovered. He delivered Athens from a dreadful pestilence, and was publicly rewarded with a golden crown. Skilful and diligent in his profession, he devoted all his time to the service of his country. He enjoyed the rewards which his well-directed labours claimed, and while he lived in the greatest popularity, was carefully employed in observing the symptoms and the growth of every disorder, and from his judicious remarks succeeding physicians have received the most valuable advantages. The experiments which he had tried upon the human frame, increased his knowledge, and, from his consummate observations, he knew how to moderate his own life, as well as to prescribe to others. He died in the one hundred and ninth year of his age, free from all disorders of mind and body.

"Apelles, the celebrated painter, lived in the age of Alexander the Great, who honoured him so much, that he forbad any man but Apelles to paint his portrait. He made a painting of Alexander holding thunder in his hand, so much like life,

life, that Pliny says the hand of the king with the thunder, seemed to come out of the canvass. He painted another, but the king expressed not much satisfaction at the sight of it; and at that moment a horse passing by, neighed at the horse which was represented in the piece, supposing it to be alive; whereupon the painter said, "one would imagine that the horse is a better judge of painting than your majesty." His assiduity in his profession gave rise to the proverb, "No day without its labour." We know nothing of his works but by the tradition of a most brilliant reputation; whilst the books of the father of medicine, more useful and lasting, have descended to us, by which we are enabled to remove the evils that threaten and overwhelm our frail and fleeting existence."

In vain our travellers sought for remains of the ancient city, the temple of Esculapius, the sacred wood which surrounded it, and other monuments of the fine arts which there shone forth in all their lustre. Every thing has perished, even the memory of those celebrated men who were once the glory of it. "Such is the fate," said the colonel, "of all those cities and countries exposed to the devastation of the Turks, a warlike and barbarous nation: like to owls and bats, who shun the splendour of the sun, the brilliancy of the fine arts blinds their eyes, and science is made an object of contempt. And such is generally the deplorable

plorable lot of every state governed by force of arms, and where the sabre is the sceptre of the legislator."

The modern town of Stancho is small; the buildings are nothing remarkable; but its situation on the sea-shore, and the environs, have charms to attract the traveller. Plantations of orange and citron trees surround it; their blossoms, multiplied and heightened in perfume by the warmth of the climate, fill the air with delicious emanations, and their succulent fruits abundantly suffice, to procure for the inhabitants a salutary and delightful refreshment, and to form an article of trade. Cargoes of them are carried to different parts of Turkey; principally to Smyrna and Constantinople. The population of the town is composed chiefly of Turks; the rest of the island is inhabited by Greeks. It is a fine plain, with some very high mountains to the southward. Two centuries ago it carried on a considerable trade in silk; and the stuff manufactories were in great estimation, as much on account of their fineness, as for the brilliancy of their dye. Aristotle attributes the discovery of silk manufactories to a female of the island. In crossing the town, William and Henry were very much struck with the sight of a noble oriental plane-tree, whose venerable and twisted branches spread over the public square, and refreshed it with their impervious shade. Fragments of marble and granite columns supported the larger branches

branches from falling by their own weight. A fountain, underneath, has been built to supply the wants of the Turks, who are great consumers of water; and in a coffee-house, under the same foliage, they procure the hot liquor extracted from the berry of the Arabian shrub, which serves them in lieu of wine and every other fermented spirit. The Turks, to whom shade is not only necessary but a delight, assemble under this prodigious plane-tree, and pay a kind of religious attention to it, which is shared by the birds who lodge and make their nests in its branches. "Pray uncle," said Henry, "let us enjoy this delightful retreat for half an hour, and take a cup of coffee." "With all my heart," said the colonel; "I never beheld such a noble tree: it would not be a useless enquiry to the naturalist to know the age of it. In Europe we might easily gain information, but in this country, where indolence consigns facts and events to oblivion, it is impossible. We know that the wood of the plane-tree is as hard as that of the oak; consequently the former grows very slow, and if we pay attention to the size and the astonishing length of the branches, I should think that more than ten centuries have elapsed since the time of its plantation."

The colonel had scarcely finished his observations, when they were addressed by their Greek captain, who came up in great haste. "Gentlemen," said he, "let me advise you to quit the island immediately.

mediately. I have just learnt that the captain of a vessel lying in the road died last night of the plague. It will most probably spread; the indifference of the Turks to all precautions to remove this scourge, or stop its progress, will leave ample field for the contagion to spread. As the first symptoms have appeared, we cannot be on board too soon."

Although our travellers were in want of some provisions, they immediately determined to submit to inconvenience, rather than expose themselves to the most dreadful of infections. They therefore hastened on board, and prepared for sailing.

CHAP.

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superb tomb, as a monument of her grief? Artemisia wished to immortalize the memory of King Mausoleus, her husband, by the construction of an edifice consecrated to contain his beloved ashes. But, by another signal mark of tenderness and affliction, this inconsolable spouse, whom grief soon brought to the grave, found no other means of soothing her heart, than by mingling the ashes of her husband with her drink. How amiable and attracting would history be! how it would honour

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which it produced in his time. It is the
with the isle of Lero, between which and
Calamo our travellers sailed for Patmos. One
good port and some creeks, high mountains where
mines and quarries of marble might be opened, an
ungrateful soil, the necessity the inhabitants are
under of supplying their wants by navigation and
trade, and little intercourse with foreign vessels;
these are so many marks of conformity between the
two islands.

The capes and barren rocks of Patmos soon
opened to the view of our travellers, and they
shortly cast anchor in the port, one of the finest
in the Archipelago. This island is celebrated in
ecclesiastical history for the exile of St. John,
who was banished by the Roman emperor Domi-
tian, after having been barbarously treated at Rome,
where he was cast into a cauldron of oil set on fire.
But the same Divine Providence, which protected

the three Hebrew captives in the flames of the burning fiery furnace, brought that holy man safe out of what one would have thought an inevitable ruin. He remained in Patmos several years, instructing the inhabitants in the faith of Christ; and wrote his revelation, which, under the form of visions and various symbolical representations, presents to us a prophetic history of the Christian religion in future times, and the various changes, vicissitudes, and revolutions it was to undergo, in different ages and countries, to the end of the world.

The first object visited by the colonel and his nephews, was a vast monastery, built on an eminence. The monks pretended to show them the grotto where St. John wrote his book of mysteries, and even the hole in the wall through which he received the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.

Patmos is not more than eighteen miles in circumference. Its coasts are divided by a multitude of bays and creeks, and remarkable for the number of good ports it presents to seamen. But, whatever advantages a country may derive from its ports and commercial situation, the island is no less abandoned to misery. Hills and valleys, which might produce in abundance, offer nothing but the melancholy picture of rudeness and waste. The population, which follows agriculture and industry, has singlarly diminished; and whilst the convents swarm with indolent monks, the country becomes a desert. In summer most of the men are engaged

in procuring means of subsistence, or in carrying on, with their boats, a trade, which nourishes, but does not enrich them. The women remain charged with domestic cares and cultivating some pieces of ground, during the absence of their fathers or husbands; and this timid people hide and shut themselves up, whenever they see strangers land on their shores.

Our travellers' curiosity being soon satisfied, they crossed over to the more important and celebrated island of Samos. It was formerly consecrated to Juno, who was born there, on the banks of the river Imbrasus, under the shade of an agnus-castus, a shrub very common in most of the islands. A magnificent temple was erected in honour of the goddess, which is now annihilated, like the ancient splendour of the island. Samos was also the cradle of Pythagoras; of the poet Cherilus; of the mathematician Conon, cotemporary with Archimedes; of Timanthes, one of the most famous painters of ancient Greece; and it was in this island that Herodotus, a fugitive from tyranny, sought an asylum, and composed in retirement the first books of his history. The ancients admired its brilliant fertility so much, that it was an object of envy in the eyes of different nations, who often endeavoured to become its possessors. To give an idea of its abundance, they commonly said that the very fowls gave milk. But what is singular, the ancients found every thing excellent except

the wine; whilst at present it forms one of the best revenues of the island: and the sweet wines would attain, by more precaution, the quality of the Cyprus, so much esteemed in Europe. The Swedes import large cargoes of them to their own country. The amiable qualities of the Samians very much attracted the notice of our travellers. They are the mildest and liveliest of the Greeks. Their country still possesses every thing to render it flourishing: good ports, a situation very advantageous for commerce, a fertile soil, a wholesome climate, a pure air, and springs in abundance. What a source of riches and happiness, if rapacious hands had not dried it up by a system of administration which appears to have been engendered by the genius of destruction! Samos is separated from the continent by a strait which is scarcely two miles in width. The other passage, to the westward, between this island and Nicaria, is much frequented by vessels sailing from Constantinople to Syria and Egypt, where they find good anchorage.

The bishop of the island derives a considerable revenue from his benediction on the waters and the cattle, which ceremony is performed at the beginning of May. Whenever a Greek dies without male issue, the governor is heir to all his arable lands; the vineyards, the olive plantations, and the gardens, belong to the daughters; and his relations may have the refusal, when the lands are

to be sold. The dress of the women is in the Turkish style, with a red cap, and a tassel, yellow or white, which hangs down the back. Their hair is commonly parted into a couple of long tresses; at the bottom hangs a bunch of small plates of block-tin, or silver of coarse alloy. When the grapes are ripe, the vineyards are crowded with people; every one eats what he pleases, and picks and chooses where he thinks fit. The natives being ignorant of the art of shooting flying, wait for the partridges along the brooks, where they come to drink in covies; they kill seven or eight at a time. The mountains contain quarries of fine white marble. The Samians are said to have been the first discoverers of the art of pottery; it is now entirely lost, and they procure ware from Ancona.

The adjoining island of Nicaria is reckoned one of the most miserable in the Archipelago. It is, however, famed, in ancient times, for the fall of Icarus, son of Dædalus. These two illustrious aeronauts, having made wings, and fitted them to their bodies by wax, took their flight from Crete; but the heat of the sun melted the wings of Icarus, and he fell into this part of the ocean, which from him has been called the Icarian Sea. Dædalus was the most ingenious artist of his age, and to him we are indebted for the invention of the wedge, and many other mechanical instruments, and the sails of ships.

A fair wind carried our travellers over in a few hours to Micone, where they found in the port many ships bound to Smyrna and other parts of Turkey. The Greeks of this island are very good sailors, and being engaged in maritime affairs, neglect the culture of their lands, which would be very productive: for every thing, though in small quantity, is of a good quality. The wine and fruits are excellent; but the former, almost the only article of trade, they mix with water, to increase the quantity, without recollecting that they diminish its value. The colonel and his nephews, in their walks, found abundance of game; but water is scarce, and during the great heats every thing is dried up and withered. These droughts have, doubtless, obliged the inhabitants to seek other means of existence, more certain and less painful. "I do not find, uncle," said Henry, "that at present these islanders show marks of baldness. From ancient writers we learn that they were called Bald-heads, and they pretended that it was an endemic disease, with which they came into the world." "You are right," answered the colonel; "but do you recollect the other trait in the character of the ancient inhabitants? They passed for great parasites, and those men who presented themselves at feasts without invitation, were proverbially called 'Guests of Mycone.' It is a custom which indicates poverty, or excess of epicurism; but always

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an absolute want of delicacy, in those who have contracted it. Fabulous history likewise pretends, that the giants whom Hercules killed were buried under this island; whence arose the proverb of 'Every thing is under Mycone,' applied to those who treat of different subjects under one and the same title."

The female dress of Mycone is as grotesque as it is expensive. An ordinary suit costs two hundred crowns, and a more costly one above seventy pounds: but then, perhaps, it lasts a woman her whole life; and her husband has not the mortification of seeing her follow the fashions, and dip her hand into his purse at every change of the season. The first part of their dress is a short under smicket, with wrist-band sleeves, usually made of muslin, or silk embroidered with gold lace; over this they wear another of cotton, with sleeves as large as a surplice, which reaches to their mid-leg, and is trimmed with lace all round the edges. The third piece is a gorget, covered with silver or gold embroidery. They next put on a corset, without sleeves; this is edged with gold and silver, and adorned with pearls. This corset extends three or four inches over a kind of under petticoat, very thick, and full of plaits, reaching no lower than the knees, and fastened before with ribbons. The sixth piece is an apron of muslin, or embroidered silk. Embroidery being an invention of the Levant, they wear

nothing without it, and excel even the French in that kind of work, as to neatness; but the patterns are not so well fancied. In summer they wear cotton stockings, and in winter red cloth ones, trimmed with gold or silver lace, and full of plaits; they put on four or five pair, one over the other. Their garters are ribbons, edged with gold and silver lace. Their slippers are of velvet; but the upper part is so short that they but just cover the toes. Some of them wear Venetian shoes, tied with broad laced ribbons. All this strange finery has neither taste nor elegance, and is very disadvantageous to beauty. The principal occupation of these richly caparisoned dames is to spin cotton and knit stockings.

As our travellers were passing a large house one evening, they heard a great noise, and all on a sudden saw a plate come through the window. "Pray what is the meaning of this?" said the colonel to his servant; "is it a mad-house?" For Bacchanalians only, Sir," replied the man. "It is the palace of a prince, or archon; for this is the title still assumed by the richest and noblest of my countrymen. They are only making merry; and at these feasts, archons are accustomed to break plates, as a proof of their magnificence."

The little island of Delos is only three miles from Mycone. The colonel and his nephews crossed over in a boat. It lies in the middle of the Cyclades, so called because they form a circle round

round this island. It is at present a desert, covered with ruins. Pirates and smugglers are almost the only men who land there, to divide the fruits of their plunder, or concert new plans of rapine, seated on the fragments of those altars where incense burned in honour of the god of day. In wandering over the ruins of that once favoured island, our travellers could not help sighing at the inconstancy and vanity of human pursuits. "We might be induced to exclaim, with Pausanias," said the colonel: "Fortune incessantly diverts herself with the affairs of this world: nothing can resist her power. What now remains of Troy?—of Carthage?—or of Thebes, in Egypt?—or of Delos? the most illustrious island of all; a consecrated spot; the cradle of Apollo and Diana; the chosen theme of the songs of the most famous poets; the object of veneration amongst the ancients, who came here to adore Apollo, in a temple, one of the most superb edifices on earth, and the majestic ornament of the most magnificent city in the world. Every one has heard of the wonders of Delos, of its monuments, of its riches, of its brilliant population, and of its magnificent architecture. Never was island so highly extolled."

The ruins are carried off every day to serve as materials for building, or to be converted, by the Turkish stone-masons, into little pillars, having a turban at the top, which the Mahommedans set up in commemoration of the dead. Mount

Cynthus, whence Apollo was called Cynthian, and Diana Cynthia, crosses almost the whole island obliquely; it is composed of the common kind of granite. On the top are the remains of a citadel that commanded the whole island. The colonel and his nephews soon quitted this melancholy spot, to enjoy the more lively scenes of Tino. The distance being only fifteen miles, they landed in the evening at the town of St. Nicholas, built on the ruins of the ancient capital.

Tino is a temple of Nature, which she has been pleased to decorate with a liberal hand. Its fields are still adorned with all the opulence of industry. The population is numerous and active; every thing unites to render it one of the most agreeable islands of Greece, and at the same time one of those where peace and happiness appear to have fixed their residence on a more solid basis. What would it be if so many advantages could be seconded by a rational liberty, which constitutes the power and prosperity of empires! It is sixty miles in circumference, full of naked mountains, but well cultivated. The fruits are excellent; and the vine thrives to admiration, and has doubtless done so for centuries. One of the most abundant productions is silk; the women are employed in taking care of the silkworms, in spinning the silk, and knitting stockings of it, which have not the lustre of woven ones, but are better, and wear longer: but the silk gloves are so remarkably fine,

fine, that our young friends were induced to buy a few dozen, as presents to their relations and friends on their return. The dress of the women has none of the grotesque of many other islands; it is at the same time noble and elegant. Beauty, their general appendage, loses not, under this garb, its graces or its charms; and sweetness of character, ingenuousness, and an innocent desire of pleasing, render the young women extremely amiable and attractive.

CHAP. XXXI.

OUR travellers next crossed over to Andros. The channel which separates it from Tino is about a mile in breadth; into which vessels of burden are afraid to enter, on account of the rocks and shoals. They therefore rowed across in a boat, and sent their vessel on to the port to wait for them. After some days, William found an opportunity of forwarding the following letter to his sister.

MY DEAR SISTER, *Andros.*

ALTHOUGH this island is mountainous, like Tino, it has, in proportion, more lands fit for cultivation; its plains are more extensive, equally fertile, and as well watered. The principal produce of its territory is silk, of which great quantities are annually exported. Oranges and lemons are also carried from hence to Salonica, Athens, and the Morea. The wheat, barley, wine, and oil, are generally sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The mountains are covered with arbute trees, in many places; the fruit of them is distilled by the inhabitants, to make spirits.

We have explored the ruins of the ancient capital, under which is, probably, buried the famous spring

spring called "Jupiter's Present," which had the taste of wine in the month of January. The miracle lasted seven days; and when the wine was carried out of sight of the temple of Bacchus, it became water. This was, no doubt, some trick of the priests, who took care to maintain the general belief, that every year, during the feasts of Bacchus, wine flowed from the temple, by conveying a quantity of it through secret canals.

I must relate to you a curious anecdote of the original inhabitants. The Andrians were the first of all the islanders who joined the Persians, and therefore, Themistocles, the great Athenian general, resolved to attack the city, and lay it under large contributions for the maintenance of his fleet. Having landed his men, he acquainted the magistrates, that the Athenians were come with two powerful divinities on their side, *Persuasion* and *Force;* and therefore they must part with their money willingly, or by force. The Andrians replied, that they had likewise two mighty deities, who protected their island, *Poverty* and *Impossibility*, and therefore could pay no contributions. Themistocles, dissatisfied with the answer, laid siege to the town. The event is not known; but it is probable that he made himself master of it; since Pericles, as we are informed, a few days after sent thither a colony of Athenians.

The island had formerly various names, amongst others that of *Antandros*, signifying, "for one man,"

man," from its having been given as his ransom, by Ascanius, the son of Æneas, when taken prisoner by the Pelasgians. It is the dowry of a sultana; and a Turkish governor administers justice, and watches over the peace of the island. We have not paid our respects to that fountain of authority, as such meetings are accompanied with the same ceremonies throughout the empire. A compliment of "Are you happy?" coffee, a pipe, sweetmeats, and rose-water, constitute the whole entertainment; unless the great man should for a moment deprive his mouth or nostrils of their favourite gratification, a whiff of tabacco, and condescend to ask some childish question respecting the infidels' country. Various kinds of tobacco are smoked by the Turks; but that which is generally preferred, particularly by the ladies, to whom this pleasure is equally dear as to the men, is of the growth of Latikea, on the coast of Syria. It is not only weaker and more delicate in its narcotic effects, but of peculiarly grateful perfume. As the pampered appetite of luxury is, however, never satisfied, the addition of gum benzoin, myrrh, and the odoriferous wood of aloes, is very commonly made: and as a distinctive mark of politeness, bordering even upon something like gallantry, a lady will, in a happy moment of condescension, not only offer a prepared piece of these substances, but even light the pipe herself, before presenting it to the favoured object of her civility. The enjoyment

joyment and occupation universally established throughout the empire, and in which the lowest individual participates with the basha of three tails, is the pipe. Pipes of all sizes and dimensions, of all degrees of rudeness and elegance, are the never failing object in the street, and in the house.

The Turks believe, that those who die without the pale of Mahommedanism are constantly tormented in the grave, until the day of judgment: that the black and blue angels announce to them, as well as to those Mussulmans who have lived without faith in their creed, their horrible punishments; and continue to beat them incessantly with red hot hammers: that there is a pool in Paradise, which is of a round form, and of an extent equal to thirty days' journey; the water of it is whiter than milk, and its odour more agreeable than musk. The basons which are placed round the borders of the pool, are equal in number to the stars of heaven; and whoever drinks of that water will never thirst.

It is an established custom to inter their dead within a few hours after dissolution; having previously washed the body with milk and water, or water alone. It is then placed on a bier, the face covered, and carried, the head foremost, with hasty steps to the grave. This celerity proceeds from an idea, that if the deceased has merited the bliss which awaits the true believer, not an instant should be lost in conveying him to the cemetery;

cemetery; and should it be otherwise, it is incumbent on all good Mussulmans to disengage themselves, as speedily as possible, from the service of the wicked. The prophet has declared, that whoever shall carry a dead body forty paces toward the grave, will thereby expiate a great sin. In consequence of that assurance, no Mahommedan, who has the least regard for the future welfare of his soul, will lose such favourable and frequent opportunities of absolution. Even during the plague, the subjugatory opinion of predestination blunts every apprehension of danger; and the most devout Turk first places himself under the bier, at the right shoulder of the deceased, then passes to the left.

No weeping, or external signs of distress, are observable at a Mussulman's funeral. Unlimited submission, and pious resignation to the decrees of Providence, are taught there as acceptable to God: repining at the act of his divine will, as impious and unavailing. There is something peculiarly affecting in those visits to the graves of departed relations and friends. Persons may be hourly observed in the cemeteries, piously and solitarily repeating prayers to the throne of mercy, in behalf of the deceased; and continuing to their ashes those acts of respect and tender regard, which death itself has not had the power to terminate.

I shall conclude, my dear sister, with stating to you

you the Turkish manner of praying. The crier regularly announces from the mineret the appointed hours, in a voice, strengthened by custom far beyond the tone of voices in general:

"God most high! I attest that there is no other God but God! I attest that Mahommed is the prophet of God! Come to prayer. Come to the temple of salvation! Great God! there is no other God but God!"

The true believer, at prayer, should divest himself of the recollection of every worldly object; and should so intimately persuade himself he is in the presence of the Almighty, that no action of common usage should be allowed to interfere with the sacred duties in which he is engaged. Should he feel himself disposed to gape, he is ordered to suppress the sensation, and to close his mouth, lest the father of iniquity should enter, and take possession of his person. Adieu,

Your affectionate

WILLIAM.

The party again committed their destinies to the winds and waves. The weather had for a few days been settled and gloomy. After sailing through the straits which separate Andros from Negropont, the largest island in the Ægean Sea after Crete, they were overtaken by a tremendous hurricane. The ship

ship was blown, during five days, in every direction, the sport of contending elements. Each successive exertion of the seamen became less effectual; and our travellers saw themselves driving to leeward, under the irresistible impulse of a violent squall, and a heavy sea, which rolled on towards the shores of a small island, situated west of Scio, called Ipsora, whose perpendicular and craggy rocks threatened inevitable destruction. The ship approached them fast. To escape seemed impossible. The affrighted crew dropped upon their knees, and, offering their supplications to Heaven, relinquished the probable efficacy of human effort. The captain, however, preserved his composure; and judging that, by hauling up the mainsail, he might accomplish his object of weathering the island, urged the manœuvre so effectually, by threats and blows, that the timid seamen executed whatever he directed, and soon afterwards anchored the vessel in a harbour secure from every tempest.

The joy at such a deliverance may be more easily conceived than described. A generous wine soon recruited our travellers' strength and spirits; and the enjoyment of present good obliterated all recollection of past distress. When the weather became moderate, the colonel and his nephews went on shore. In an open square, a temporary building had been erected by some Turkish officers, who were settling the capitation tax of the inhabitants,

inhabitants. They were civilly disposed towards our travellers, and sent a servant to invite them to drink coffee, and recount their miraculous escape, of which they had received some account from those who had witnessed their perilous situation. In the evening the colonel and his nephews took leave, and, under favour of a land breeze, stood out for Scio, where they anchored the next morning, in a harbour, the entrance to which is greatly obstructed by sunken rocks, and other dangers.

Some weeks' stay in the island afforded ample matter of communication to Henry, who wrote as follows to his mother.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Scio.*

AN air of comfort and convenience prevails in every part of this island, very unlike what is to be met with upon the other Greek islands. The whole valley, from the town to the sea-shore, presents a most beautifully variegated scene; the gardens and country houses of the opulent Greeks appearing, at intervals, the prominent features amongst the most populous villages. The principal town occupies an extensive space of ground on the eastern side of the island; but the narrowness of the streets is a material objection. The harbour is defended by a castle, first erected by the Genoese, but enlarged and completed by the Venetians. The arms of both are still visible on its walls. Here the

the governor and a small garrison of janissaries reside.

The whole of the island is so well cultivated as to deserve the appellation of a garden. Those spots devoted to the growth of oranges, whose grateful perfumes are wafted in every direction, are mostly surrounded by walls, and each tree is planted in a kind of pit, in order to allow the proper proportion of water to be applied to the root. But the most precious produce is gum mastic, obtained from the lentiscus, an evergreen shrub, whose branches, extending circularly, at length bend toward the ground, and give to it a beautiful tufted appearance. The fruit grows in clusters, like grapes, and in each berry is a white kernel. To collect the mastic, incisions are made cross-ways, on the trunk, in the months of June and August, from whence the gum distils; and, hardening in drops upon the ground, is carefully swept up and preserved. Dry and serene weather affords abundant crops of the gum, which continues oozing until late in September. The quantity said to be produced annually is nearly one hundred tons weight; the greater proportion is reserved for the interior of the seraglio, and the remainder is permitted to be sold.

The ladies of the Levant are extremely partial to mastic, and are seldom without a piece in their mouth. It is not soluble; gives a fragrance to the breath; and, from the beautiful rows of pearl which

which adorn the mouth of every inhabitant of the island, it is easy to believe that this delicate gum is an admirable preservative. As we walk through the streets, we see many beautiful girls sitting at the doors and windows, twisting cotton or silk, or employed in spinning and needle-work. Silk being the principal riches of the island, the care of the worms is a very general occupation amongst the women. They take every precaution imaginable that no one should cast an evil eye on the precious insects; for that, in their opinion, would not fail of killing them. Those marks of superstitious credence are common in many countries. In France and Germany, the peasants are afraid of the influence of an evil eye on their cattle; and the Spanish ladies of Peru wear talismans, to avert the evils, which they imagine may be communicated to them by those who admire their beauty. So much easier is it to propagate error than truth.

However, the ladies of Scio are extremely polite to strangers. Being invited to pass an evening with a family of consideration, we found an assemblage of more natural grace and beauty than can well be imagined. All are cheerful and conversable; and the pleasures of the dance animate them to the highest pitch of amiable hilarity. In the party were some, however, who made us reluctantly believe, that the delicacy of their fine faces was of short duration. Paint was liberally employed

employed by others, who thought nature not so lavish of her roses and lilies as their taste judged requisite; or perhaps whose roses and lilies had left them. Whilst contemplating the attractive contour and lovely traits of true Gerecian beauty, few, perhaps, would be fastidious enough to bestow much consideration on the costume that accompanied them; but still it cannot escape observation, that none can be less adapted to the display of beauty than that of the ladies of Scio. They appear absolutely bound up to the chin in a kind of stay, or plaited body of a gown, stiffened by whalebone, with an outer vest, reaching just below the knees; and an apron over all, worn very high; so that the fine form of the body appears a shapeless mass.

The principal nobility strictly avoid all communications, by marriage, with the plebeian race surrounding them; and upon the fronts of many of their houses, the arms of the Justinian family are displayed, in ostentatious allusion to their relationship. There are not more than thirty families who affect an absolute distinotion and priority: for erudition few are eminently distinguished; but a quickness of penetration, a liveliness and aptitude in conversation, and a social disposition of mind, form so evident a contrast with the sullen and obtuse intellects of their despotic governors, that strangers willingly forget how far removed they appear to be from those models of taste, learning, and talents

talents, for which their country has been so classically celebrated.

The accounts which have reached us through the writings of the ancients, state that this beautiful island was inhabited by the Ionians, about one thousand years before the Christian æra; that the Athenians, in the spirit of vindictive conquerors, destroyed the city which had been built previous to their victory; and that after various changes in the political alliances and connections of the Sciotes, they became, at length, subject to the Roman empire. In 1204, the island was attached to the Constantinopolitan government, from which it passed to the Genoese; under whose authority it remained till nearly the end of the sixteenth century, when it was taken by the Turkish admiral, during the siege of Malta. For a short period the Christians again possessed this important place, and the Venetian banners, during two years, waved over its fortifications; but, since 1696, the crescent has indicated that the authority of the Porte alone is there established.

The church of Vittoria, built by the Genoese, is the largest on the island, and claims our attention. It consists of a nave and two handsome sides, ornamented with columns of porphyry and verde antique. The walls are decorated with several curious portraits, representing various

rious saints; among whom St. George and St. Demetrius are the most conspicuous.

The most remarkable remains of antiquity, which have been falsely termed the "School of "Homer," are on the coast. They appear to have been an open temple of Cybele, formed on the top of a rock. The shape is oval, and in the centre stands a mutilated image of the goddess. The whole is hewn out of the mountain, rudely sculptured, and probably of remote antiquity. From the slope higher up, we enjoyed a delightful view of the rich vale, and of the channel, with its islands, backed by the mountains of Asia Minor.

The wines of Scio have always been celebrated as nutritive and pleasant. They were much esteemed by the Romans; and freely dispersed to the people in triumphs, and at the feasts in honour of Jupiter and the other gods. If may be questioned, if either the flavour or qualities are in the least impaired.

Before the wine is made, the Greeks let the grapes dry in the sun for eight days. They have preserved the method proposed by Cato, of guarding the vines from insects, which consists in covering the shoots with a mixture of bitumen, brimstone, and oil.

There being no good port, large vessels anchor in the open road, from whence they can sail

sail with any wind. In short, every thing contributes to render Scio an attractive spot, but the plague and leprosy, which sometimes exercise their ravages.

Adieu, my dear mother. We are going to Smyrna.

HENRY.

CHAP. XXXII.

HAVING waited some days, in vain, for a fair wind to proceed to Smyrna, they determined to go by land, and gave orders to the captain to bring the vessel round. "It will be a pleasant variety," said the colonel, "and I make no doubt but what we shall find something to amuse and instruct us." They crossed the canal in a boat, and landed at the small town of Chisme, at the bottom of the gulph. There, in the month of July, 1770, the Turkish fleet, consisting of five and twenty sail, was entirely destroyed by a Russian squadron of nine men of war and six frigates. Never was a victory more terrible, nor more complete! Every ship was blown up or burnt; almost all the crews perished in the flames; and of their whole navy, the Turks had nothing remaining, after that day, but two ships which could not join the fleet, and an old one past service, lying in the canal of Constantinople. The colonel having presented his Turkish passport to the governor, obtained horses and a guide. The first place they came to was Erythræ, once a noted city; but it has long been deserted and stripped of its ruins. In vain they searched for a temple

ple of Hercules, which has been mentioned as one of the highest antiquity, and resembling the temples of Egypt. The god was represented on a raft, on which it was said that he arrived there from Phœnicia. The massive and rugged stones of the city walls, a few sepulchral vaults, and some broken columns, and the vestiges of a large theatre in the mountain-side, amused, for a short time, the curiosity of our travellers. In the middle is a shallow, lively stream, clear as crystal, running through thickets of myrtle to the sea. This rivulet is mentioned by Pliny, as being remarkable for producing hair on the bodies of those who drank of it.

Continuing their journey through a well-watered vale, and stored with myrtles and evergreens, our travellers next crossed over and between the wild ridges of the mountains, and stopped at Cerhardam, a Turkish village. Before them appeared the two white conical summits, called "The Brothers," which serve as a sea-mark in navigating the gulph. They then entered on a rugged narrow track, between lofty cliffs, and by the side of a water-course, very steep; and after passing a stream, and descending a ridge of mountains, came to the bottom of a deep bay, and stopped for the night at Vourla, on the other side of the promontory. This town is distinguished, at a distance, by its numerous wind-mills. It is a place of considerable extent, the buildings dispersed on eminences, with

a pleasant plain to the sea. The next morning our travellers set off to visit the celebrated little island of Clazomene; which, by the command of Alexander, was afterwards changed into a peninsula, by the addition of a mole. They crossed the plain of Vourla, slanting toward the sea, and soon discovered this monument of that great mind, which delighted in correcting or subduing nature, by filling up or forming paths for the deep. The mole was a quarter of a mile in length, and the waves break over it in a very formidable manner: the width, as they conjectured, was about thirty feet. On the west side, it is fronted with a thick wall; on the opposite, is a mound of loose pebbles, shelving as a buttress. The upper works have been demolished. The island is about one mile long, and one quarter broad. Traces of the city-walls are found by the sea; and in a hill are vestiges of a theatre. One or two hovels are all the present structures; and these are chiefly frequented by fishermen, and persons employed to drive away birds, when the grain ripens. Referring to this confined situation of Clazomene, a famous sophist, when importuned to adorn his native city by residing in it, rather than at Smyrna, replied, "The nightingale refuses to sing in a cage." History informs us, that the Clazomenians, to be more secure from the Persians, had settled in that island.

Continuing their journey along the shore, they crossed over a bar of sand at the mouth of the canal.

canal. Alexander the Great, to render the communication easier, ordered that a navigable cut should be made through the plain, intending to join the two bays; but the attempt failed, when the workmen came to the rock. After having reposed a few minutes at the coffee-hut, they arrived at the Hot Baths, on the banks of the ancient river Caicus. They were called the "Agamemnonian." It is related, that the army under Agamemnon, ravaging Mysia, was engaged by the king near the river; that many of the Greeks were wounded; that an oracle directed them to these waters for a cure; and that here the helmets, taken from the enemy, were suspended. The bath is under a modern-vaulted roof, with vents in it for the steam: the current, which is soft and limpid, is conveyed into a round marble bason, and runs over into a cistern beneath. A quantity of coagulated blood, lying on the pavement, excited the curiosity of the colonel, who was informed that it was used, instead of soap, in shaving; which operation is often performed in the baths. They crossed the river over a lofty bridge, intended to secure a passage to the traveller, when torrents descend from the adjacent mountains, and entered a wood of olives, in which they remarked many trees, whose knotty trunks indicated extreme old age. The Europeans resort to this wood, on shooting parties, in boats from the town; or with their families, for pleasure and the benefit of the air.

Continuing the road which led between the burying-grounds on the hill and the sea, our travellers entered the lower part of the city of Smyrna.

Colonel Winterton having met with an old acquaintance, was induced to remain at Smyrna a considerable time. William's letter to his father will convey to the reader the best account of the objects which engaged their attention.

MY DEAR FATHER, *Smyrna.*

We are delighted with this city: it is a most desirable residence to a foreigner who travels either for instruction or amusement; as agreeable society is to be met with, both in town and country, where diversions of every kind may be found. The consuls and merchants, every night give parties, where the charms of social intercourse are heightened by those of dancing and singing. Hospitality is the characteristic virtue of the Smyrna merchants; and we have been much engaged with dinners, balls, and suppers. The style of life of our countrymen is infinitely superior to what the customs of England teach us to expect; and not a small share of Asiatic luxury has been resorted to, to compensate for the inconvenience and danger of an Asiatic climate. The attractions of an advantageous trade bring together natives of every part of Europe; and the allurements of scientific research, induce many learned individuals to explore the neighbouring countries. In short, they vie

vie with each other in the flattering and hospitable endeavour to welcome and amuse a stranger.

At a public dinner we were invited to, after the first course, the whole company rose and removed to another room, where an elegant second course was already set out, and the name of each guest was written and laid on the plate, opposite to the chair in which it was intended he should be seated. Most of the young ladies play on the piano forte, or the guitar, and possess the talents of drawing and languages. The Europeans often intermarry with the Greeks, or with natives of the same religion. Their ladies wear the oriental dress, consisting of large trowsers, which reach to the ancle; long vests of rich silk or velvet, lined, in winter, with costly furs; and round the waist, an embroidered zone, with clasps of silver or gold. Their hair is platted, and falls down the back, often in great profusion. The girls have, sometimes, above twenty thick tresses, besides two or three encircling the head as a coronet; and set off with flowers, plumes of feathers, and pearls or jewels. When they visit, they put over their heads a thin muslin veil, with a border of gold tissue. A janissary walks before, and two or more handmaids follow them through the streets. When assembled, they are seen reclining in various attitudes, or sitting cross-legged on a sofa. Embroidering is their chief employment, in which they excel.

In apartments which have no fire-places, it is

usual, in cold weather, to place a pan of charcoal under a table, over which a carpet, or handsome counterpane, is spread, the sides reaching to the floor; this contrivance is called a *tendour*. The party sit round and converse, warming their feet and hands under the cover. The penetrating eye of suspicion has pretended to discover, in this obscure mode of warming the hands, an easy method of exciting heat in the heart; and suspects that the glowing phrases of a billet-doux, or the enamoured pressure of a finger, are conveyed, by means of the tendour, with a facility which prudence could wish avoided. Whether that species of caloric be so communicated, I cannot presume to determine; but we all know that, without any similar vehicle in other countries, lovers are at no loss to make their sentiments of affection, or gallantry, perfectly understood: and, therefore, if the tendour was to be refused admittance, contrivances would be substituted, no doubt, equally convenient.

The refreshing sea-breeze is a luxury scarcely to be appreciated, but by those who have experienced its influence in the scorching climes of Asia. Fortunately for the inhabitants, this renovating wind seldom disappoints their expectation, during the summer months; and much of the health they enjoy may be attributed to its salutary virtues. Nothing less than the fine climate of Smyrna, and the opulence of its commerce, could engage

engage Europeans to settle in a place subject to frequent earthquakes, fires, and the plague. A year seldom passes without a shock or two; but generally slight, and less hurtful than alarming. When the plague rages, the merchants either retire into the country, or shut themselves up. They receive their provisions from people who, in those times of general dismay, market for them. The meats are put into baskets, let down by cords from the windows, and on being drawn up, immediately thrown into water, to prevent infection.

This city, the most commercial of the Ottoman empire, is pleasantly situated at the bottom of its capacious bay, on the side of a steep hill. The houses are of wood, painted with different colours, and generally are only one story high. The style of them; the dress of the ladies, their deportment, voice, and figure; the serenity of the atmosphere; the various national standards flying in the port; the distant views; but, above all, the *Meles*, on whose banks the prince of poets was born—that painter of nature, who still charms us by his immortal pictures: all these together form a scene inexpressibly delightful.

But it is a curious circumstance, and proves the inflexible adherence to those prejudices which guide the Mahommedans, that even in this great mart, where ships from all nations contribute to increase the wealth of the country, and provide for the wants of the laborious part of the commu-

nity, compelling, thereby, as it were, an intimacy with Christians, which turns out to the hourly advantage of the Turk; even here, there remains an extraordinary degree of rancour against the former; and in no city are they more liable to insult.

Numerous caravans bring from the interior of Asia Minor, cotton, the silky fleeces of Angora, carpets and silk from Persia, drugs of all kinds, wax, figs, &c.; whilst vessels from the trading nations of Europe, loaded with their own productions, and with those of America, constantly succeed each other, in a port as spacious as it is safe and commodious. The city is well supplied with provisions; and fine fish is caught in the bay. A variety of excellent wines are made in the country, or imported from the islands. Among the grapes, is a species, without either stone or seed, called the *Virgin Grape;* from which a very delicate wine is sometimes made, without the aid of expression: the fruit is merely put into conical bags of flannel, and, after fermentation, supplies a juice, which, on being preserved, produces this curious luxury. The sheep have broad tails, hanging down like an apron; some of them weigh eight, ten, or more pounds: they are eaten as a dainty, and the fat, before they are full grown, is reckoned as delicious as marrow. The fruits are of an excellent flavour, and the figs deservedly famous. But still, in this land of plenty, we are not without our grievances. The mosquitoes tor-

ment

ment us most exceedingly by their loud noise, and by repeated attacks on us, and sucking our blood, till they are full: a small fiery tumour then ensues, which will not soon subside, unless the patient has been, as it were, naturalized by residence. Their fondness for foreign food is but too visible in our swollen and distorted features.

I must take my leave of you at present, my dear father, as my uncle's friend has called on us for a walk.

Your dutiful son,

WILLIAM.

CHAP. XXXIII.

ANCIENT Smyrna, under the Romans, was esteemed the most beautiful of the Ionian cities. Strabo's account of it gives us a fine idea of its magnificence. It has been styled "The Lovely, the Crown of Ionia, the Ornament of Asia." It was much frequented by the Sophists, and with Ephesus became renowned as a school of oratory and science. At the beginning of the thirteenth century it laid in ruins, except the citadel, which then served as a fortress. Tamerlane, who ravaged Asia Minor in 1402, hearing that the Christians and Mahommedans had each a strong hold there, and were always at war, required the former to change their religion; but the governor, soliciting aid from the European princes, Tamerlane marched in person to subdue a place, which Bajazet had besieged, or blockaded, for seven years: he attacked it by sea and land; and, to ruin the port, ordered each soldier to throw a stone into the mouth of it, which was soon filled up. He is said to have cut off the heads of a thousand prisoners, and to have caused a tower to be erected with stones, and their heads ranged in order, like inlaid work, some full-faced, and some sideways.

Few

Few traces of the ancient city remain. On the gateway of the castle, our travellers were shown a copy of verses, giving an elegant and poetical description of the extreme misery, from which John, emperor of the East, had raised the city; and concluding with an address to the Omnipotent Ruler of heaven and earth, that He would grant him and his queen, (whose beauty it celebrates,) a reign of many years. The ancient buildings have supplied materials for the public edifices erected by the Turks. Many pedestals, statues, inscriptions, and medals, have been, and are still, discovered in digging; and perhaps no place has contributed, more than Smyrna, to enrich the collections and cabinets of the curious in Europe.

The numerous objects in Smyrna engaged the attention of William and Henry so much, that the latter prepared another letter to his sister; which will, therefore, be here introduced.

DEAR SIBELLA, *Smyrna.*

WE have now seen all the principal buildings, namely, the mosks, public baths, caravanseras, &c. The latter are generally built in the form of a quadrangle, with a fountain in the middle. The upper story consists of an open gallery, with a range of apartments: below stand the loaded camels, mules, and horses. When travellers arrive, a servant dusts the floor of a vacant chamber, and spreading

spreading a mat, which is all the furniture, leaves them in possession.

The markets are large square buildings, constructed of freestone, on brick arches: they were erected to preserve merchandise from fire; or from pillage, in case of a revolt. They contained a great number of warehouses and shops, filled with gold and silver stuffs, muslins, silk, cotton, goat-skins, carpets, furs, and even precious stones. The Franks' street, which is the finest in Smyrna, runs all along the port. The conflux of various nations, differing in dress, manners, language, and religion, is very considerable.

The fine colour we see in the cotton yarn of this city, is dyed with madder, in the following manner: the cotton is boiled in mild alkali, and then in common olive oil; when cleaned, it will take the madder dye. Of so much importance was this secret considered in England, that we are told five thousand pounds was given for it.

Amongst the new objects in the East, we have been much amused by two live cameleons; one of the size of a large lizard. They were confined on a long, narrow piece of board, suspended between two strings, and had, for security, twisted their tails several times round. The changes in the colour of these reptiles, and their manner of feeding, are curious. A fly, deprived of its wings, being put on the board, the cameleon soon perceives its prey, and untwirling its tail, moves towards

towards the fly very gently and deliberately. When within distance, it suddenly seizes the poor insect, by darting forward its tongue, a small long tube, furnished with glutinous matter, to which the fly adheres. This is done so nimbly and quietly, that, perhaps, it is no wonder it remained unobserved for ages, while the creature was supposed to subsist on air.

The bird's-eye prospect of the city, from the mount, is very delightful; as it commands the valley of gardens, with the whole town, the gulph quite to the sea, and the surrounding spiral mountains. From the south side we overlooked a valley, abounding in marshy shrubs, concealing the Meles for a considerable distance; and we could discover farther on its scanty stream and rocky bed. It is the rivulet sacred to Homer. We descended, in order to trace the banks, set thick with oleanders. In that truly romantic spot, in a luxuriant grove of woodbine and jessamine, several Turkish women were reposing in the shade, and enjoying the delicious freshness.

It is certain that the ancient inhabitants of Smyrna considered Homer as their own, and were particularly jealous of that fame. They erected his statue; they cultivated the science of rhetoric in his temple; and they impressed, as a vehicle of the greatest notoriety, and the highest testimony of their respect, his portrait upon their coins. This illustrious bard was certainly unknown beyond the Alps

Alps till 1337, when a Neapolitan monk introduced the Iliad at Rome, where he was sent on an embassy by the patriarch of Constantinople; to which circumstance must be attributed the revival of Greek learning in Italy. How much manuscripts of Homer were in request, even with the Greeks of the lower ages, may be collected from an eastern historian, who, describing the imperial library at Constantinople, which was burnt, mentions the Iliad and Odyssey, written in gold letters, upon a roll one hundred and twenty feet long, made of the intestine of a serpent.

In the history of St. Polycarp, the first bishop of Smyrna, it is related that he was burnt here, in the amphitheatre, because he would not reproach Christ. "Fourscore and six years," said he, "have I served him, and he hath never wronged me; how then shall I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?" When the executioners were going to nail him to the stake, he begged to remain as he was, for he who gave him strength to endure the fire, would enable him to remain unmoved in it: upon which they only bound him. When he had finished praying, the executioners lighted the fire, and a great flame burst out: "But behold a wonder," says the church of Smyrna, "seen by many of us! The flames, assuming the form of an arch, encircled the body of Polycarp, who was in the midst, not as burning flesh, but as gold or silver purified in the furnace." The surrounding crowd, however,

however, instead of being convinced, were exasperated at the miracle, and commanded a spearman to plunge a sword into his body.

The centurion, perceiving the malevolence of the Jews, caused the body to be burnt in the usual manner. The Christians gathered up the bones, as a valuable treasure, and interred them, resolving to meet annually at his burying-place, to commemorate his martyrdom, and to encourage others to bear a similar testimony to the faith: a circumstance that gave rise to those solemn anniversary commemorations of the martyrs, which were generally kept in the first ages, and which were eventually productive of much superstitious abuse.

"One cannot but observe," says a learned divine, in his account of this eminent saint, "how heavy the Divine displeasure, not long after Polycarp's death, fell, (as upon other places, so more particularly upon this city,) by plague, fire, and earthquakes; by which means their city, before one of the glories and ornaments of Asia, was turned into rubbish and dust; their stately houses overturned; their temples ruined; their traffic spoiled; their marts and ports laid waste; besides the great number of people who lost their lives."

The plague, which is communicated here by commercial intercourse with other ports in the Levant, baffles every precaution to effect its entire eradication. Although its frequency is not lessened, for many years past, the unexampled zeal of

of the director of one of the hospitals has considerably diminished its baleful effects. The prior of the hospital of St. Anthony, an Italian monk, built and established the house above thirty years since, and has applied the whole of the pension he receives from his family to its benevolent purposes. Patients of all ranks are admitted without fee; and what is contributed by those of the better sort is added to the common stock. He does not pretend to any skill in medicine, but tries every plausible experiment, with unremitted attention, and frequently performs the most menial offices himself. Having been infected, he made a vow to attend one person, at least, if he recovered. His success has induced him to dedicate the remainder of his life to that service. He computes, with the strictest veracity, that of his patients nearly two thirds have escaped death. His excellent specific for this dreadful disease, consists in anointing the whole body of the person affected with the most fresh and pure olive oil.

But the progress of it is utterly uncontrolled. The people are, in general, as negligent as ignorant. Their dwellings are crowded; and their rooms covered with matting or carpets, sofas, and cushions, adapted as well to retain as to receive contagion. The Turk views the prudent Frank with insolent disdain, and reproaches him with timidity or irreligion. He triumphs in superior courage and confidence, going out or coming in, during the malady, with a calm indifference, as at other

other times; unconscious of the road which leads to his security or destruction.

The affability of Turks of the better sort, to their inferiors, is very striking. Whoever comes with business or request, sits down without ceremony, is made welcome by the civilest appellation, takes his pipe, and enters upon his detail. Totally ignorant as they are as to other nations, and little informed in the affairs of their own, the usual occurrences of the day, within so narrow a sphere, are important enough to occupy their whole mind; and the equanimity and temperate happiness, to which they have certainly attained, seem, in some measure, to disparage the utility of extensive curiosity, or restless speculation.

The veneration which the Turks have for old trees, originates in a national principle of gratitude; for they certainly owe to them much of the solace of their days: trees of spacious shade, and in clusters, are the more to be valued, as they do not often occur. It is truly admirable in what an equal state of rich verdure and foliage they continue for a whole summer, whilst the plains around them are burnt up with the extreme heat. When a plantation of this description is found near the road side, it has been immemorially occupied. A temporary shed is built, and a small stove made, and coffee is always ready to refresh the wearied traveller: to this are frequently added melons and cucumbers, of the most delicious juice. "The joint

joint tenant of the shade" is a musician, who tinkles a guitar, as an accompaniment to the airs, of which love is the inexhaustible subject.

The happiness of the Turk is of the quiescent sort. It is not unusual for him to leave his house at a very early hour, and resort to a bower, where, in a fume of tobacco, and almost perfect silence, the whole day is passed; and he returns highly satisfied with the relaxation.

No people exceed the Turks in religious observances, by which the memory of deceased friends is continued and honoured. To frequent the grave of a parent, or beloved relative; to offer expiatory prayers, or to mourn with silence for a long period after their death, is a duty which a good Mussulman never neglects. The humbler graves are marked by cypresses, planted at the head and feet, from which custom, such extensive groves have grown, and are seen in every stage of vegetation: others are distinguished by upright stones, carved, for men, with a turban, denoting their rank or occupation during life; and for women, with a plain round top. Inscriptions, containing the name and age, and some appropriate verses, are likewise embossed with raised letters, gilded, and contrasted by a black or green ground, very delicately wrought. Between some of these a chest of ornamented stone is placed, and filled with earth, in which the choicest aromatic flowers and herbs are planted, and regularly cultivated by the

the females of the family, who assemble in groups for that duty. This mark of respect is more generally shown to the young of either sex who die unmarried; it is of the highest antiquity amongst the polished and the ruder nations, and surely none can be more elegant and appropriate.

The funeral prayer is a simple and energetic composition, to be excelled only by those of our own liturgy, on the same occasion. For an infant, they add to the prayer, "May this child be our forerunner to eternal life, O God! May this innocent be the pledge of our fidelity, and of our heavenly recompense, as also our intercessor before thy divine clemency!"

I must now close this long letter, as my uncle has ordered us to prepare for embarking.

From your affectionate

HENRY.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIV.

THE flowing breeze, under whose auspices our travellers had quitted the hospitable mansions of their Smyrna friends, scarcely conducted them to the entrance of the gulph, before they perceived the threatening symptoms of an approaching storm. The captain, well aware that a gale of wind would succeed, was induced to seek the shore. The country about the mouth of the Hermus is thinly inhabited, and but little cultivated. The steep and craggy hills bore evident marks of volcanic eruptions; a few olive, palm, and yew trees were scattered about; and near a village, a gloomy grove of the latter shaded the remains of its former inhabitants.

"Mark the change," said the colonel, as they strolled along the shore; "the Hermus no longer

——————— rolls ashore
The beryl and the golden ore;

but is muddy, and deep only in the channel. By its influence on the gulph, we see that it has already effected great changes; and perhaps, at a future period, the sea may, by degrees, give place to

to a noble plain, created and watered by the Hermus. Commerce will have then removed to some more commodious mart, and Smyrna become deserted."

During the time of their waiting in expectation of a favourable wind, William and Henry had an opportunity of attending to the simple ceremony of a village funeral. A man, much respected by his companions, had died suddenly. He was borne by four men, upon a kind of hurdle, to the cemetry, his face uncovered, and accompanied by a few friends, who each held a bough of cypress. The imaum, who preceded the body, occasionally uttered some sentences from the koran, and repeating a few others at the grave, the body was interred. As soon as the grave was filled up, each friend planted a sprig of the cypress he had brought on the right, and a second on the left hand of the deceased. Upon William's enquiring as to the motive of their planting, one of the followers gravely told him, it was to ascertain, by their growth, whether the deceased would enjoy the happiness promised by Mahommed to all true believers; or whether he would for ever be denied the bliss of the Houries. The former would occur, should the sprigs on the right hand take root; and the latter would be ascertained, if the left only should flourish: if both succeeded, the deceased would be greatly favoured in the next world; or if both failed, he would be tormented by black angels,

gels, until, through the mediation of the prophet, he should be rescued from their persecutions.

Having reached the island of Mytelene in safety, Henry soon found an opportunity of sending an account of it to his mother.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Mytelene.*

HAD it not been for the gale of wind which obliged us to land, we should have had a very pleasant passage down the gulph of Smyrna, which is computed about ten leagues in length. It is sheltered by hills, and affords secure anchorage. The fertility of the soil, and the good supply of water for the uses of gardening and agriculture, with other advantages, has occasioned the settling of numerous villages on the side of the gulph. The principal one supplies Smyrna with fruit, fish, and provisions; and boats pass to and fro without intermission. The hills were enlivened by flocks of sheep and goats, and resounded with the rustic music of the lyre, and of the pipe. We passed the bay of Phoggia, where once stood the famous city of Phocæa. Under the first emperors of Rome, it became one of the most flourishing cities of Asia Minor. The inhabitants were expert mariners, and founded many cities in different parts of Europe, particularly Marseilles.

The town of Mytelene is advantageously situated upon a peninsula, and possessing a safe port to the northward, and another to the southward, is rendered

dered peculiarly commodious for trade. It is protected by a castle, built on a commanding eminence by the Genoese, whose struggles to preserve their dominion continued down to the year 1462; when the murder of the last Italian prince who governed it, was added to the long list of similar atrocities committed by Mahommed II.; the records of whose infamy disgrace the page of every Turkish historian. The cultivation of the environs, gives a lively appearance to this part of the island seen from the port. The gardens are well stocked with fruit; and being amply supplied with water by innumerable wells, the proprietors are seldom disappointed of abundant crops, however dry the season may be. We hired mules and a guide, and proceeded, for a length of way, through olive grounds, extremely luxuriant as to vegetation, but with foliage forming a melancholy shade; and the only cultivation of them are low walls, built round to preserve the roots. The vineyards hang on the slopes of the hills at a distance. Bays, and inlets of the sea, most beautifully vary the mountainous face of the whole island.

We continued our tour through covert lanes of myrtle, inclosing vineyards, and much higher than our heads; excepting which, cultivation is neglected, and the inhabitants few. Scenes abounding in fine catches of the sea, with picturesque spreading shores, amuse the eye. We passed one of the many hot springs in the island, used as a

bath by Turkish women only, when invalids. It issues from a ridge of rocks, strikingly like those of St. Vincent at Clifton; and could we have examined the water, perhaps we might have found it of the same salubrious quality. We followed a route over heathy crags, and tracks impassable by any other conveyance than that of mules. Indigenous botany, perhaps, flourishes in no climate superior to this island. Deep dells, some of them infinitely romantic, with shallow rivulets, having broad rocky beds, frequently impeded our way, before we came to Petra, a village which owes its name to a singularly shaped and insulated rock, rising from the shore some hundred feet. It has some buildings on the top, accessible only by hewn steps.

In the centre of bare rocky mountains is one of a remarkably regular cone, spreading at its base, with a castle on its summit; and the town clustered together very grotesquely beneath it, falling to the sea. Here we accepted the accommodations a Turk offered us, for the night. He seemed pleased to converse with my uncle concerning English customs, particularly religion and women. The following morning, we visited the foundations of the ancient city, Methymnæ, on the south side of the hill. It was the second city in the island, both in population and opulence. Its territory was one of the most fruitful, particu- in wine. It was, according to some authors,

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the birth-place of Theophrastus, a philosopher highly esteemed for his eloquence, the brilliancy of his genius, and the elegance of his language. Some of his works are still extant, among which are his history of plants, and his moral characters, begun in the 99th year of his age. He died loaded with years and infirmities, in the 107th year of his age, lamenting the shortness of life, and complaining of the partiality of nature, in granting longevity to the crow and to the stag, but not to mankind.

Arion, the famous lyric poet and musician, was also a native of this city. He went into Italy with Periander, tyrant of Corinth, where he obtained immense riches by his profession. Some time after he wished to revisit his native country, and the sailors of the ship in which he embarked resolved to murder him, to obtain the riches which he was carrying to Lesbos. Arion, finding them immoveable in their resolutions, begged that he might be permitted to play some melodious tune; and as soon as he had finished it, he threw himself into the sea. A number of dolphins had been attracted round the ship, by the sweetness of his music; and it is said, that one of them carried him safe on his back to shore, whence he hastened to the court of Periander, who ordered all the sailors to be crucified at their return.

The climate of Mytelene has obtained, from

the ancients, no common degree of praise. Its effects on the productions of nature are peculiarly genial. The soil is friendly to the vine. That so much esteemed by the Romans would preserve its quality, if the inhabitants were more industrious in cultivation, and more careful in making and keeping it. This defect is owing to the residence of the Turks, who are scandalized by the quantity taken to excess by the Greeks. The ancient islanders mixed what was intended for exportation to Rome with sea-brine, to render it finer and more sweet. The modern Greeks increase the strength or sweetness of their wines by exposing the grapes, for many days, in the sun, before they are pressed. In less than two years, if unadulterated, it acquires its greatest maturity and perfection.

The wool of Mytelene was a considerable article of commerce, with the French merchants at Smyrna, in the last century.

Lesbos, independent of its ancient great celebrity, has been the cradle of illustrious personages, who were the glory of Greece. Pittacus, one of the seven whom Greece acknowledged as sages, and humanity as benefactors, was the legislator and founder of the republic. Sapho, celebrated for her beauty and poetical talents, was born in this island, about 612 years before Christ: of all her compositions, nothing now remains but two fragments, whose uncommon sweetness and elegance

elegance show how meritoriously the praises of the ancients have been bestowed upon a poetess, who, for the sublimity of her genius, was called the Tenth Muse. The Lesbians were so sensible of the merits of Sapho, that after her death they paid her divine honours, and raised her temples and altars, and stamped their money with her image.

Lesbos has also been the asylum of the unfortunate. The wife of Pompey, flying from Cæsar, was here hospitably received and protected. Irene, the empress of Leo the Fourth, in 802, fled to this island, and for some years earned the support of the day by the labours of her distaff.

When the island became subject to Rome, history is silent, as to any memorable transaction. In more modern times, it produced the celebrated pirate Barbarossa, who took the city of Tunis, and expelled the Venetians from the Morea. He died at Constantinople, in 1514, and was buried at a village on the Bosphorus, where his sepulchral chapel is still shown, with great veneration, by the Turks.

It was the first island of the Archipelago of which the Turks had gained the secure possession; and the advantages of its situation, and the resources of its natural fecundity, are lost entirely under their despotic sway. Adieu, my dear mother.

Your dutiful and affectionate

HENRY.

CHAP. XXXV.

COLONEL WINTERTON and his nephews set sail from Mytelene. After doubling Cape Baba, they continued their course with a light breeze, through the islands of Lemnos and Tenedos. As they were viewing the coasts and mountains of the former,—"Do you not recollect," said Henry to his brother, "those lines in Homer, respecting Vulcan, to whom the island was consecrated?

> "Hurl'd headlong downward from the ethereal height,
> Breathless I fell, in giddy motion lost;
> The Sinthians rais'd me on the Lemnian coast."

"I perfectly recal to mind," replied William, "that he was kicked down from heaven by Jupiter." "They who search another vein of allegory," said their uncle, "for hidden knowledge, in natural philosophy, have considered Jupiter and Juno as heaven and the air; whose alliance is interrupted when the air is troubled above, but restored again when it is cleared by heat, or Vulcan, the god of heat. Him they call a divine artificer, from the activity, or general use of fire in working. They suppose him to be born in heaven, where

where philosophers say that element has its proper place; and is thence derived to the earth, which is signified by the fall of Vulcan: that he fell in Lemnos, because that island abounds with subterranean fires; and that he contracted a lameness or imperfection by the fall; the fire not being so pure and active below, but mixed and terrestrial. Perhaps you may not recollect, my dear William," continued his uncle, "that Lemnos is celebrated for two horrible massacres: that of the Lemnian women murdering their husbands; and that of the Lemnians, in killing all their natural children. These two acts of cruelty have given rise to the proverb of 'Lemnian actions,' which is applied to all barbarous and inhuman deeds."

There remain no vestiges, at present, of volcanoes in the island; however, subterranean fires still burn, and a hot-water spring serves as a bath. Corn, cotton, oil, and silk, are its chief productions. It is famous for a certain species of bole, called Lemnian earth, to which imaginary virtues have been attributed. The ancients used to stamp on it a variety of impressions. All the east coast of Lemnos is inaccessible, on account of a sand-bank, which extends four leagues out to sea; but on the south side there are two ports. In short, to be restored to a flourishing state, the island only wants to be delivered from the hands of its oppressors, for nature has done every thing for it.

The colonel, having determined to treat his nephews with a sight of "the plains where Ilium stood," ordered the captain to cast anchor near Troas, the whole site of which is now a thick forest of the dwarf oak, peculiar to the Levant. The view of Tenedos and of the sea, with a large hill above the plain of Troy, is particularly pleasing. "These are interesting objects of sight and contemplation," exclaimed William:

"In sight is Tenedos, well known to fame;
A prosp'rous isle, where Troy bore Priam's sway;
But now chok'd up with sand—a false and treach'rous bay."

"The possession of the island," observed the colonel, "placed near the mouth of the Dardanelles, might alone be the means of the taking of Constantinople: but the Turkish government, insensible of the advantage of that important post, appear to neglect it more than other places which would be less useful. Nothing can exceed the supineness of the Turks, in profound peace, as to the management of their garrisons. It not uncommonly happens, that fortresses of importance are intrusted to one old janissary, who performs, at the same time, the double function of governor and porter.

Our travellers having passed some time in exploring the plain of ancient Troy, William sent

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an account of their excursion to his father, in the following letter:

MY DEAR FATHER, *Troas.*

YOU may imagine that we have been highly delighted in coasting the ancient kingdom of Priam, on which our view was constantly fixed. Tenedos is mountainous inland, but cultivated in the neighbourhood of the town. Two castles guard the entrance of the harbour; and a long line of windmills appear in a southern direction from it. When the Greeks pretended to raise the siege of Troy, their fleet, you recollect, lay concealed behind this island. The Trojan coast rises gradually from the sea, and is, though uncultivated, possessed of innumerable charms. Within two miles of the water, we behold the ruins of Alexandrian, or modern Troy. To the north are the hills that bound the plain of Ilium; and behind all is Mount-Ida, with its many risings.

This scene, rich as it is, received additional beauty from a Turkish camp of horse. Their tents, their colours, and their gilded crescents, in all the prowess of war, and glittering in the sun, made a most splendid appearance: yet, when we looked upon them, we sighed at the melancholy change that has taken place, from the former to the present inhabitants of this renowned land. The magnificent pavillion of the general was richly carpeted, and lined with silk. At the entrance

were his arms hung in a trophy; and about him the tents of his officers, ornamented in a similar, though less sumptuous manner.

The cavalry of the Turks has been universally esteemed, and universally dreaded in action. No men make a more dexterous, or more destructive use of the curved scimitar. Their attack is not regular, but at all times impetuous: they are such excellent horsemen, and their horses are so trained to sudden stops and wheelings, that their enemy scarcely knows how to avoid their precipitation. In addition to the sabre, they have a carbine and pistols; they usually wear a helmet and breast-plate, making a very formidable and soldier-like appearance. The conduct of the Ottoman troops in the field, and particularly of the cavalry, has been, upon all occasions, stamped with acts of high courage; but disgraced by every horror of which barbarians could be guilty. Few victims, after a defeat, have escaped their relentless sword. The wounded and dying have seldom awakened one single sigh of pity; but all have been sacrificed to that cruel system of persecution, which their religion too successfully preaches to the abject minds of its followers.

The collective military force of the Ottoman empire has been generally estimated at about four hundred thousand men; but of these one hundred and fifty thousand are furnished by those persons to whom a proportion of conquered country has been

assigned, upon certain feudal conditions; among which is that of holding in readiness, and subservient to the sultan's order, a number of cavalry. The artillery are estimated at twenty thousand. Their field pieces are chiefly brass; but notwithstanding the reiterated instruction of so many French engineers, they are profoundly ignorant of their management. The art of tempering their sabres is now lost, and all the blades of great value are ancient; however, their sabre is superior to any of ours in its form and lightness.

Alexandria Troas was one of eighteen cities, which bore the name of Alexander the Great. It was eminent for its fidelity to the Romans, who conferred on it the same privileges as the cities of Italy enjoyed. It was seated on a hill, sloping toward the sea, and divided from Mount Ida by a deep valley. On each side is an extensive plain, with water-courses. Between the camp and the ruins we walked over the groundwork of many a former edifice, and traced the city wall a considerable way. The next object that engaged our attention was a massy pile of subterraneous structure. The dome is so easy of ascent, that we walked up to the top, and on going into it, found four or five apartments, which are now occasionally used as places of shelter from the inclemency of the weather, for the camels of those caravans that journey along this solitary coast.

But our visit to modern Troy could not satisfy

our curiosity. That city was never taken by Hercules, had never sustained a ten years' siege, had never been immortalized by the muse of Homer, and consequently could never be thought a substitute for

> " Ilium's divine abode, and Dardan's walls,
> " Renown'd in war."

We therefore went on shore the next day, and having hired horses and a guide, determined to visit the ground on which the city stood. We rode along the coast through a rich and woody country, enlivened by the rising sun. We were delayed some time in examining the broken marbles and columns which were in our road; but at length ascended an easy eminence, from which we looked over the plain that was the scene of Homer's battles.

> " Great the delight the Dorian camp t'explore,
> The plain now silent, and deserted shore;
> There were the ships, and here proud battle rag'd,
> When gods, and Greeks, and Troy's bold sons engag'd."

We soon reached the Scamander, and then crossed the plain, and ascended an eminence on which the city stood, about nine miles from the Hellespont. There we strolled about a long time, searching for some remnant of it. From the site of the city, which corresponds with Homer's epithet, " being exposed to the wind," we returned to the banks of the Scamander, which we followed until it brought us to the dry channel of the Simois, and thence

thence proceeded to the shore of the Hellespont, where the ships were drawn up. In the centre is the lowest of the Turkish castles, built to defend the passage of the straits. You will agree with me, that the son of Laertes must have had a most astonishing voice, to be heard from it at the two extremities of the fleet, when I tell you that the two promontories are four miles asunder.

Having rode over the beach, we ascended the Sigæan promontory, on which we visited the tomb of Achilles and Patroclus. We staid so long near this sacred monument, that it was late before we reached our vessel; but the fatigue of the day was amply rewarded by the amusement of it.

Another day we made an excursion up the country to Mount Ida, so famed for the loves of Venus and Anchises; for the judgment of Paris, &c. It still answers to the picture of Homer, who calls it the mother of wild beasts, by which it is so much infected, particularly by jackalls, that the ascent is dangerous; however, we reached the top, and there read many passages in Homer, descriptive of the sacred spot, and the surrounding scenery, which is delightful.

From the site of old Troy, what reflections may not the thinking mind be brought to, by dwelling upon the reverse which has been there effected! Only three thousand years ago, (a period of insignificance when compared to eternity,) upon that spot rose the majestic pile which enclosed the beauties

beauties of Helen. There the splendour of a court consisted in its heroes; the renown of a country in the wisdom of its governors. There an innumerable population enjoyed the blessings of a favoured clime, and fought the battles of a favoured home! There not one stone marks the residence of Priam! scarcely a vestige remains of the labours of his subjects! and so completely annihilated is every trace of his city, that doubts have been entertained of its ever having existed!

The beauty of the evening in this country surpasses all description. We arrived at the shore when the sky glowed with the rich tints of the setting sun; which, skirting the western horizon, raised, as it were, up to our view the distant summits of the European mountains. We saw the cone of Athos, in Macedonia, distinctly, bearing from us fifty-five miles. The top is so lofty, that the sunrising is beheld on it three hours sooner than by the inhabitants of the sea coast. According to Pliny, the shadow of the mountain, at the solstice, reached into the market-place of Myrina, a town in Lemnos; which island is distant eighty-seven miles eastward. Adieu, my dear father, from

Your dutiful and affectionate

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVI.

OUR travellers being detained, on account of the captain's taking in a supply of water, Henry seized the opportunity of writing again to his mother.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

ONE great source of our amusement in visiting the Archipelago, has been the variety of the human countenance. What makes it more peculiar is, the distinction of dress, and that cast of features which so strongly pourtrays the mind. My uncle has often told us, that the old men are perpetually reminding him of those fine attitudes and heads, which were so happily studied in the Italian schools for scriptural subjects. The contour of Grecian statues, and the profiles on their medals, are still to be seen; and there is a marked resemblance between those of heroes, which have been transmitted to us, and the peasant, or the mariner.

In the islands, particularly Scio, all that symmetry of features, and brilliancy of complexion, which inspired the poets and heroes of old, still flourishes. The girls have regular and delicate features; but one style of countenance prevails.

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When without a veil, the head is covered with a close coif, confining the hair; except a few locks round the face, which are bathed in perfumed oil, and curled likewise, as in Vandyke's portraits. The shift-sleeves are exposed, of thin gauze, full and open; and the outer vest does not reach far below the knees, with an apron of coloured tiffany. The vest, or gown, is always of gaudy silk, thickly plaited in narrow folds, stiffened with whalebone, like a hoop, and fastened under the chin. It appears much as if one of the most fanciful of our English ladies of fashion should wear her petticoat tied round her neck, and put her arms through the sides; or, by a more grotesque comparison, a tortoise walking upright.

The ringlets, which are so elegantly disposed round the sweet faces of those fair damsels, are such as Milton describes by "hyacinthine locks," crisped and curled like the blossoms of that flower. No dress more unbecoming could have been imagined; but their faces make ample amends, with eyes varying with infinite expression from softness to vivacity. But beauty in this clime is a very short-lived flower; and, as longevity is as common as in others, we can account for the severe sarcasms the poets have bestowed on their faded charms, which seldom survive the thirtieth year.

Of the Greeks, it is usual to make comparison with their ancestors. As the possessors or the vassals

vassals of an empire, under those rulers who encouraged literature, arts, and elegance; or those who have debased the mind by maxims of abject slavery, and by acts of enormous oppression; it is easy to conclude how differently they have been affected. Though in the present age, in some respects, they experience greater toleration than the conquered subjects of any other nation, they have, in no degree, recovered their former energy. The richer Greeks, for that constitutes the sole distinction, are versatile and intriguing. The lower ranks have an instinctive cheerfulness, and are the merriest creatures imaginable; but are prevaricating, and awake to every advantage. That degraded nation is liable to a certain depravation of mind consequent on slavery. This degradation and servility of their situation has operated for centuries, and has, consequently, produced an accumulated effect on the mind; but were this weight taken off, the elasticity and vigour of the soul would have wide room for expansion: and though it cannot be expected that they would at once rise to the proud animation of their former heroes, they would, doubtless, display energies of mind, which the iron hand of despotism has long kept dormant and inert.

When we view the Greeks in their more comprehensive character, as a nation, their superiority over the Turks in knowledge is surprisingly great; they possess a great degree of genius and invention,

tion, and are of so lively an imagination, that they cannot tell the same story twice without varying the embellishments of circumstances and diction; added to this, both men and women speak much, and with wonderful volubility and boldness, and no people are such natural orators. All have an activity and sprightliness which strongly contrasts with the dull and pompous gravity of the Turks. An European feels himself, as it were, at home with them, and amongst creatures of his own species; for with Mahommedans there is a distance, a non-assimilation, a total difference of ideas, and the more he knows their language, the more he perceives it: on the contrary, the more intimately he knows the Greeks, the more similar does he find them in habits and manners to other Europeans. In general, they are an agreeable and a serviceable people; but they are much given to levity, immoderately ambitious, and fond of honourable distinctions.

All the islanders are lively and gay, fond of singing and dancing to an excess, affable, hospitable, and good-natured. In general, they have grand and noble features. From different faces, a painter might put together the heads of Apollo and of the finest ancient statues. It is death for a Greek to marry a Turkish woman. The testimony of a Greek is not valid in a court of judicature, when contrasted with that of a Turk. They are distinguished by a different dress; it is death to wear the

same

same apparel as a Turk: even their houses are painted of a different colour. In fine, they are in the same situation they were the day they were conquered; totally distinct as a nation; and are stigmatised by the Turks with the deriding epithet of "Timid Hares."

Infinite as are the corruptions of the modern colloquial Greek language, many natives will be found who speak it with comparative purity, and pride themselves on adopting the more classical phrases and pronunciation of the mother tongue. Excepting small religious tracts, the modern Greeks possessed no books in their own language, till a plan was adopted, some years since, of publishing a grammar and dictionary of modern Greek. Several of the most approved Italian and French comedies and novels have been also translated and printed. As to much original composition, it will be sought for in vain. Amongst the higher ranks of Greeks, some of more liberal education, or elegant turn of mind, apply themselves to poetry: these pieces are in manuicript, and communicated only to a few; for, as yet, no collection of them has been published. Degraded as the modern Greeks are in the political scale of Europe, no people are more apparently anxious with respect to pending transactions. Credulous in the extreme, or ingenious in inventing circumstances, the current news engrosses every conversation; and the gazette, published in Greek, at Vienna,

Vienna, their grand oracle, is read or repeated with the greatest avidity.

Adieu, my dear mother, and believe me

Yours, dutifully,

HENRY.

Having no inducement to return to Constantinople, Colonel Winterton determined on proceeding to Europe. A fine wind soon carried them off Cape Doro, in the Negropont; but the prospect of a quick passage was not of long duration. The wind veered about suddenly, and obliged the captain to run for the island of Skiro. William and Henry did not regret the interruption to their passage, as they had an opportunity of seeing the ancient kingdom of Lycomedes, so famed for the amours of Achilles and Deidamia. His mother, to prevent Achilles from going to the Trojan war, where she knew he was to perish, privately sent him to the court of Lycomedes, where he was disguised in a female dress. As Troy could not be taken without the aid of Achilles, Ulysses went to Skiro, in the habit of a merchant, and exposed jewels and arms for sale. Achilles, by choosing the arms, discovered his sex, and went to war.

The present state of the island did not much interest our travellers, as few vestiges of its ancient magnificence remain. Perpendicular rocks cover the surface; but between their bases the valleys might be enriched with all the beauties of culture, if

if the population was more numerous, more active, and less oppressed.

The colonel and his nephews were induced to visit the little island of Hydra, near the Morea, on account of the statement of it which they had received from their captain. On their arrival there the captain insisted on their lodging with a relation of his, with whom they passed a few days. William having sent an account of it to his sister, we shall close the chapter with his letter.

MY DEAR SIBELLA, *Hydra.*

THIS barren rock, we may call it, is situated about three leagues west of the Peloponnesus. Its inhabitants, able seamen, do not endeavour to obtain those things from their own ungrateful soil, which they can purchase at an easy rate in the neighbourhood. Till the campaign made by the Russians, in the Mediterranean, the Hydriottes, like the other Greeks, never extended their navigation beyond Egypt or the Black Sea; but when the Russians abandoned their allies on the Greek coast, several of the richest families leaving the Morea, to avoid the fury of the Turks, the vessels of the Hydriottes were found extremely useful, and even the island appeared to many as the nearest and most secure place of refuge. The new colonists, however, were compelled to turn their thoughts to commerce, to procure a subsistence, and

and were excellently seconded by the abilities of the natives, as seamen.

What we have heard of the Hydriotte barks recals to our recollection the simplicity and good faith of ancient times. They knew nothing of bills of lading; but bags of dollars, merely distinguished by the mark of the proprietors, even if they are not accompanied with letters of advice, are sure to experience a safe and punctual delivery. We have been told of instances of even large sums remaining untouched in their captain's cabin many months, for want of being claimed, and finally delivered without the least deficiency. These good qualities have necessarily extended the commerce of these people; and therefore, their vessels now frequent the ports of France and Italy; sometimes even further northward.

Lately the Hydriotte vessels, for the purpose of resisting the Barbary corsairs, carry from eighteen to twenty guns; their crew are from thirty-five to sixty or ninety men, with a few boys. The owners content themselves with the interest of their capitals, and some other advantages, while the rest of the profits are divided into halves; one of them is appropriated to the captain, the other divided in equal portions among the sailors, not excluding the cabin boys. This generally enables the latter to support a parent that may stand in need.

My uncle having enquired how the young lads are instructed in naval affairs, our host told us that from

from the moment they are able to distinguish a cape, a mole, or an island, they are taught to remember their appearances, bearings, &c. The very next time they come within sight of any of those objects, they are examined with the utmost rigour, and woe to them whose memories are deficient. They are, indeed, again reminded of the names of the objects forgotten; but every name then repeated, is accompanied by a severe lash of a whip.

In the sea voyages of the Hydriottes, they are remarked for their observance of the most rigid frugality: it is wine only that they then wish to have in abundance; but having once arrived in port, they take care to consume their reserved provisions in a very short time; and for their ability in support of privations, when they occur, few surpass them.

One afternoon a vessel arrived, and you would have been delighted with the sight. There is scarcely any scene of hilarity which exceeds the joyful return of these vessels to their dear island. It is, in fact, a general feast; and in this there is always some imitation of the manners of the people they visited last. The sciences also are regarded in their turn. They have lately established schools for teaching the ancient Greek, the Italian, and geography. They have also erected an exchange, which is likewise the seat of justice; and

if

if the rest of their countrymen were released from the oppression of the Turkish government, there is but little doubt that their progress in civilization would be equal to these islanders.

Adieu, from your affectionate

WILLIAM.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVII.

THE hospitality and attentions of the Hydriottes would have engaged our young friends to have made a longer stay amongst them; but the advantage of a fair wind was not to be lost. They therefore set sail, and soon doubled again the island of Cerigo, with a gentle breeze. "How delightful," said Henry, "is this sailing on a tranquil sea, surrounded by islands of various beauty and extent." "That is very true," said his uncle, "but their neighbourhood, in case of storms, is dangerous. We cannot but remark that all the great promontories of the continent have a range of islands in front, which run into the sea, and always in the same direction as the cape before which they are situated. These are, no doubt, summits of mountains torn from the chain, and serve the eye of the observer as marks to trace the immense rents which have been effected by the waters."

As they continued their voyage along the rocky coast of the ancient Laconia, their minds were engaged on the scenes which have taken place, and the valour of the ancient inhabitants. The names of Lycurgus, Leonidas, Agesilaus, &c. recurred to their memory. "What a melancholy change!" exclaimed William. "It is, indeed!"

replied his uncle; "but, I dare say that Bonaparte's mission to the Mainotes is not forgotten. France evidently means to extend her influence to the Morea; and, from the accomplishment of so grand an object, will raise an enemy to our commercial connections in the Levant. It is peculiarly adapted to her views, as well on account of its advantageous locality, as that the Greeks, thinking themselves aggrieved by the court of Russia not having effected their emancipation, are disposed to receive assistance from any power that can deliver them from the galling chains of Turkish tyranny."

Coasting along the shores of Messenia, the little island of Sphacteria and the Strophades opened to our travellers' view. The former is famed for the defeat and capture of the Spartan troops by Demosthenes, and Cleon his presumptuous colleague. The fleet of Æneas stopped at the Strophades, as Virgil informs us:

> First to the shores of Strophades we came;
> Of Strophades yclept,—a Grecian name:
> Islands, where, in the great Ionian tide,
> Celæno and the harpy brood reside.

The largest, which is not more than six miles in circumference, instead of being, as the inventive bard of Mantua tells us, infested by monsters, has a convent of mild and charitable monks, who, contrary to the general custom in those seas, supply, without reward, all vessels that touch there, with the excellent water of their monastery.

Colonel

Colonel Winterton and his nephews soon landed in the port of Chierri, in the island of Zante. The figure of the island is semicircular, and its circumference about sixty miles. It lies on the western side of the Morea, at the distance of about seven leagues. The port often serves as a retreat to pirates, who wait there for an opportunity of surprising vessels, either in their passage, or even at anchor. Our travellers were told of a melancholy event which took place there some years ago. An English vessel anchored in the port, and two days elapsed without the boat coming ashore. A priest, wishing to know the reason, went on board with two Greeks, where they found only three men, an Esclavonian, an Albanese, and a young Greek. They told the priest, that having been chased by a Barbary corsair, the crew had abandoned the vessel; and that they had run into Chierri, as the port was known to them. The Esclavonian pretended to be the pilot, and added, that the captain was ill in bed, and had given orders that if any one came on board, they were to ask for a boat and some sailors. The priest, suspecting the story, imparted it to the English consul and to the governor. They requested him to return and endeavour to bring some one ashore. He succeeded in persuading the captain to permit the Albanese to return with him. They had no sooner advanced a few paces from the shore, than the priest, assisted by some armed peasantry, bound the Albanese hand and foot, and carried him into

the town. On being interrogated, he declared that the vessel was really English; that it was bound to Smyrna; that he had embarked with his comrades at Leghorn; that the captain's wife, an aide-de-camp of Lord Heathfield's, two young midshipmen, and a Jew, were likewise on board; that on the passage, Osegovich, the Esclavonian, had persuaded him and the Greek, to enter into a plan of murdering the crew and seizing the vessel.

One night, when he was on watch with the Albanese, the Greek, and three English sailors, the rest of the crew and passengers being asleep, Osegovich seized a club, which was used to beat stock-fish, and killed one of the sailors: the other two were immediately stabbed. Having seized the arms and ammunition, Osegovich and his comrades began firing between decks, by which five men were killed and three wounded. The crew, with the captain and aide-de-camp, escaped in the boat. The killed and wounded were thrown overboard. The Esclavonian then obliged the captain's wife to put on men's clothes, and assist in working the ship with the midshipman and the Jew. Osegovich could not resist the charms of the young Englishwoman, and would have forced her to yield to his passion, if the Albanese, his rival, suddenly rushing in, had not pointed a dagger to his throat, and rescued the unfortunate captive. He concluded his account by declaring, that Osegovich had in the cabin a cask of gunpowder staved, and two matches constantly burning, and was determined

mined to blow up the vessel on the least suspicion of being discovered.

Means were suggested of rescuing the unhappy passengers, and seizing Osegovich. At last it was agreed that two fishing boats should be armed with fifty men, who were partly disguised as fishermen, and apparently busy in casting their nets. The English vice-consul interested himself so much in the affair, that he determined to go on board alone. Osegovich showed him the papers, which appeared to be perfectly in order, and seemed very uneasy that the Albanese did not return. The vice-consul assured him that he was coming immediately, with six good sailors and some fresh provisions. This news pacified him, and the vice-consul proposed going on shore. Osegovich refused for himself, but consented that the captain's wife and the two midshipmen might. They had no sooner landed, than the vice-consul had presence of mind not to quit the shore. An hour afterwards, a boat went on board with six Greeks, who said they were sent by the vice-consul. Osegovich immediately enquired for the Albanese. Oh! said one of them, he has been drinking with some friends, and sent us to say he was coming. Osegovich immediately prepared for sailing, and sent two of them to loose the main-top sail: having himself taken one of the bars of the capstern, a Greek shot him in the side, and he fell immediately. At the report of the pistol, the boat came alongside, and the troops jumped on board. Osegovich and his companion were

seized and carried to prison. The captain's wife and the two midshipmen went to the consul's house, where they remained until an answer was received from Leghorn repecting the destination of the vessel.

On entering at the consul's, the Englishwoman requested to see the captain of the detachment; and after having testified her gratitude, she begged him to accept a pair of pistols, which she had always carried since that melancholy event: "One," said she, "was to have blown out the brains of the man who should have attempted my honour; the other should have finished my days." A fortnight after their arrest, the three villains were shot, and their heads exposed on the shore. About a month after, the English captain was heard of at Otranto, from whence he sent his mate and some sailors to bring the vessel round to Leghorn. This singular event made so much noise there, that poets employed it as a subject for their talents; and a tragedy was composed, which was represented with the greatest success. The name of the ship was The Grand Duchess of Tuscany.

Zante was the most valuable, though not the most extensive, of the few Greek islands under the republic of Venice. The colonel and his nephews passed a few days in the city, situated in the centre of the island, on the side of mountains, which slope gradually down to the shore. The houses are generally low built, on account of the frequency of earthquakes. They are erected on the

the highest spots, and separated by plantations of olives, cypresses, or gardens which nature alone has embellished. A high mountain commands the whole city; on its summit stands the fortress. At the foot of the mountain, our travellers found a number of mules and asses, ready saddled for hire. William and Henry mounted a couple, and were shown the different buildings, fortifications, &c. But the view is what mostly engages travellers, which is delightful on account of the variety and beauty of the different points of view. The country houses, vineyards, olive plantations, gardens, and meadows, engage the eye on all sides. "I do not wonder," said William, "that Zante has been called the Golden Island, the Flower of the Levant."

The most remarkable objects, on the side of the mountain, are the churches. In returning from the fortress, they came to St. Mark's Place, surrounded by houses of a very mean appearance. In the episcopal palace they were shown a collection of portraits of bishops who have held the see of Zante. After walking through the high street, they came to the two finest churches in the island. The first, dedicated to St. Dennis, is enriched with paintings, and numerous ornaments in sculpture and gold, silver lamps, and offerings of devotees. The body of the saint is preserved in a gilt silver case, highly wrought. The other church is equally rich. In general, all the places of worship in Zante are richer, larger, and infinitely more decorated than in the other islands.

Our travellers next visited the Lazaretto, which is composed of four square courts, where all merchandise, as well as passengers, perform quarantine. Colonel Winterton was told by the prior, that it had been visited by his countryman, the great philanthropist, Mr. Howard, whose simplicity of manners, and extreme abstinence, astonished all who knew him. But the prior was surprised that a man of his fortune should come in a merchant ship, without even a servant to attend him. "Why so?" said the colonel, "he consulted the benefit of mankind more than his own convenience."

On the north side of the island, they ascended a hill which has been converted into a burial place for the English who die at Zante. All captains and passengers pay a contribution to the priest for keeping it in repair. In one corner they were struck with the tomb of a consul. It is a kind of grotto, covered with ivy, whose sombre shade spreads over the funeral emblems, in sculpture and painting, with which the grotto is adorned. They were much gratified in walking over the plain, filled with olive trees and gardens, and which produces the fine grapes of Corinth. Being surrounded with mountains that serve to concentrate the rays of the sun, they ripen there extremely well. The first plants were brought from Corinth, about two centuries ago. Seven or eight years are required before they produce much fruit; but they last an immense time. Our travellers

saw

saw some more than one hundred and twenty years old. The islanders are in the greatest anxiety all the time that the grapes are laid out to dry. The least rain sensibly affects their quality; and a whole vintage is often destroyed by the wet. It begins about the end of July; and when they are thoroughly dried, they are put into hogsheads, and trodden down, to preserve them the better. The plain, which is not more than twelve miles in length, and about five in width, sometimes produces from four to five millions weight of grapes, besides ten thousand barrels of wine.

Oil is the next principal article of exportation. There are no manufactories of any consequence. Oxen, sheep, &c. come from the Morea; and the English import salt provisions, which are in great request, and constitute the principal food of the islands. At the time of harvest, four or five thousand peasants go over to the Morea, to assist the natives in getting in their harvest. They are paid in corn; and each peasant returns with three or four months provision for his family. Near the port of Chierri are two remarkable pitch-springs, which are constantly in a state of ebullition. It increases in summer, and is particularly remarkable during earthquakes. So great a quantity rises, that from eighty to one hundred barrels are collected, one year with another. It is applied to various uses, and makes an indissoluble cement for building.

Before our travellers' departure, they had an opportunity

opportunity of seeing the singular manner by which the natives catch sea-calves. On the south side of the island lies a village, more than two miles from the sea. To reach the shore, it is necessary to pass tremendous precipices. The peasants, rendered intrepid by habitude, climb them with great ease. They tie themselves to the trunk of a tree, or the point of a rock. On the shore are different caverns, where the sea-calves retire to. The hunter is armed with a pistol. To reach the entrance of the caverns, he must plunge himself in the water up to the neck, one hand engaged in holding up the pistol, and the other in grasping the rope. He must be very adroit in shooting the animal in the head; for in any other part the wound would not prevent its escape. When dead, the peasant contents himself with the fat and the skin; which, after being well dried and dressed, is preferred to any other shoe leather. The fat is melted and used for lamps; but the smell of it is highly offensive.

Coasting along the island of Cephalonia, covered with barren rocks, our travellers soon came in sight of Cape Leucas, the northern promontory of the island of St. Maura. It was formerly called the *Lover's Leap*, from the circumstance of Sappho, having in vain endeavoured to enamour the cold-hearted Phaon, threw herself into the sea, as the only remedy for disappointed love. After passing some small islands, they entered the narrow channel that divides the island of Corfu from

from Albania, the ancient Epirus. It wore the same appearance as Homer represents:

> The shady mountains of Phœacia's land
> Appear'd, &c.

The vessel shortly arrived under the town, which bears the same name with the island, and anchored in the port, defended from all winds by the surrounding land. After a fortnight's residence in the island, they continued their voyage to Trieste. The ship had scarcely weathered the land, before as severe a storm came on as ever vexed the Adriatic. The sea rolled tremendously, and continued so during a night of the profoundest darkness. About three in the morning the mizen mast went by the board. Happily the crew were good seamen; for, by their exertions, under divine Providence, they kept the vessel off the land. At day-break the violence of the tempest subsided, and was followed by fine weather, which brought them into Trieste, after a tedious passage.

William having sent to his mother an account of what they had seen in Corfu, we shall here present it to our readers.

MY DEAR MOTHER, *Trieste.*

NOT having an opportunity of forwarding a letter from Corfu, I shall now endeavour to describe what most engaged our attention there. The island is situated at the entrance of the Adriatic,

atic, opposite the western coast of Epirus, from which it is separated by a channel, about six miles over. Its circumference is said to be nearly sixty leagues, and its greatest breadth ten. The two rivers scarcely deserve the name, as they only serve to turn a few mills, and to supply the deficiency of rain, by letting in the water into the neighbouring fields. It is subject to earthquakes; but they are seldom attended with any fatal consequences. The productions of the island, with regard to the physical wants of its inhabitants, are nothing like so extensive as they might be; they do not yield corn and other grain enough for more than three or four months in the year.

It is covered with mountains and hills, intersected with plains, but of no extent. The want of pasturage prevents the breed of cattle; a few flocks of goats supply milk and cheese. Oxen, sheep, and game, as well as different grains, are imported from the continent.

The fortifications on the land side are very extensive, and would require a numerous garrison for their defence. There are a great many Greek churches; the richest is that of St. Spiridion, where the body of the saint is preserved: a relic singularly venerated in the islands all over Greece. In one, the Venetians used to keep the condemned prisoners, for four and twenty hours before their execution. They were chained to a post, in a cell guarded by iron gratings. In the centre of the aisle, the Venetian general ordered a grand dinner

to

to be prepared, where the prisoner, and a crowd of officious priests, by whom he was generally surrounded, were waited on by the servants of his excellence, in their most brilliant liveries. After the repast, the prisoner was carried back to the fatal post, no more to quit it till the firing of a gun announced the hour of death. The cathedral and episcopal palace have not much to recommend them. The armoury is a large building, built with some taste; opposite to it is erected a pedestrian statue, in white marble, to the memory of Count Sculemburg, who defended Corfu against the Turks in 1716.

The powder magazines are built on the most insulated spots. Some years ago, one of them blew up, and entirely destroyed the houses in the fort. Great part of the city was damaged, and many gallies were sunk. More than six hundred lives are said to have been lost by the disaster.

The appearance of the common people, who are all Greeks, is worthy of notice. They are generally well grown and well made; their complexion is dark, their hair black and short: they shave their beards, but wear whiskers on the upper lip. Their dress consists of a small close cap of red or green cloth, which covers little more than the crown of the head; of a waistcoat with a superfluity of little buttons, over which is a loose jacket. Around their middle they bind a sash, in which they carry long knives, for the double purpose of cutting their meat and stabbing those who offend them

them. Their hatred for the Turks knows no bounds; it gives rise to an infinity of ridiculous stories, in which the Mussulman is always painted in the blackest colours.

There would be no end of relating to you the different religious ceremonies, processions, &c. of these people; but one is very remarkable for its singular superstition. On the eve of Holy Thursday, many persons get a shirt made; it must be cut out, made, washed, and ironed, before day, beginning at midnight: it must have been made by an uneven number of young women, who all bear the name of Maria. It possesses the invaluable property of rendering the wearer invulnerable. It is a pity that such bullet-proof shirts should be so scarce. This recals to my mind a very odd custom we heard of being practised in the island of St. Maura. In some villages, on the wedding day, the bridegroom is conducted to the centre of a court or square; he is seated on a chair, and two men are employed, one in combing him, the other in soaping his face. A bason is placed at his feet; and every one goes to throw in a trifle, in money. This strange ceremony lasts till sun-set.

We went one morning to that part of the island of Corfu in which, as tradition reports, were the gardens of Alcinous, described in the Odyssey. It is still a delightful, though a neglected spot. We also visited the river where Ulysses, after his shipwreck, met the daughter of king Alcinous, who, with her handmaids, was employed in washing the linen

linen of her family. A modern princess would think it a strange occupation.

The Corfiotes are represented as a superstitious nation, ignorant through want of means, proud through ignorance, indigent through indolence, cruel through inclination and assurance of impunity, perfidious and false through weakness. This is said to proceed from the suspicious policy, venality, and odious inquisition of the late republic of Venice. Let us hope that this melancholy picture will be changed, and that the inhabitants, under their new master, will become what they once were.

After the dreadful storm, in which we scarcely expected to be saved, we had a pleasant passage through that long cluster of islands that lie upon the Dalmatian coast, whose various scenery is particularly striking. One evening, we were driven by the wind upon the coast of Istria, within a mile of Pola. I was very desirous of landing there, to examine the remains of a noble amphitheatre; but the wind veered, and obliged us, with great regret, to bid adieu to the classic shores of Greece.

Trieste is a handsome city; the houses are grand; the streets wide, and crowded with people of different nations; and the whole presents an appearance of commerce, of industry, and of opulence: so that the Adriatic, from the situation of Trieste, wears, as it were, a crown of gold. When Joseph the Second declared it a free port, he struck a final blow to the declining commerce of Venice.

And

And now, my dear mother, having completed our eastern tour, we intend proceeding to England by land. We have gratified a natural and laudable curiosity, and passed a certain portion of our time in a useful and agreeable manner. By visiting other countries, an Englishman acquires a greater esteem than ever for the constitution of his own. He perceives that the blessings and advantages which his countrymen enjoy, flow from those equitable laws which secure property, protect the meanest subject, and leave the mind of man to its own exertions, unrestrained by those arbitrary and impolitic shackles which confine and weaken its noblest efforts in almost every other country. But when we meet with many individuals preserving personal dignity, in spite of arbitrary government; an independent spirit amidst poverty; liberal sentiments amidst bigotry and superstition; we must naturally highly esteem such characters wherever we see them.

With what delight do we anticipate our return to you and our dear country. The happiness we shall enjoy from the remembrance of our travels, and the pleasure of relating to you the singular customs and manners we have seen, can only be exceeded by the recollection of your virtues, and the charms of your society.

Adieu, my dearest mother, from

Your affectionate

WILLIAM.

FINIS.

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